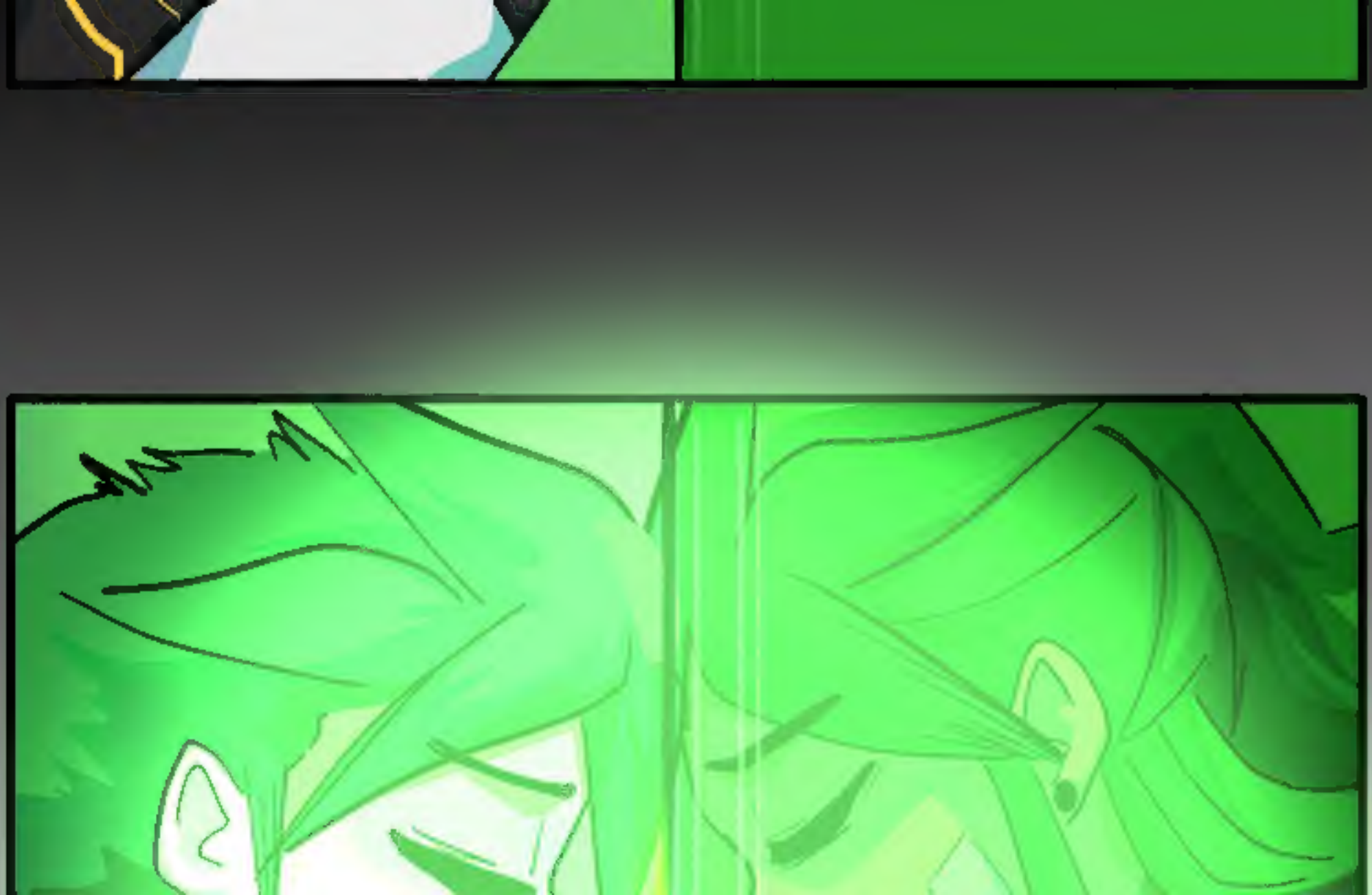
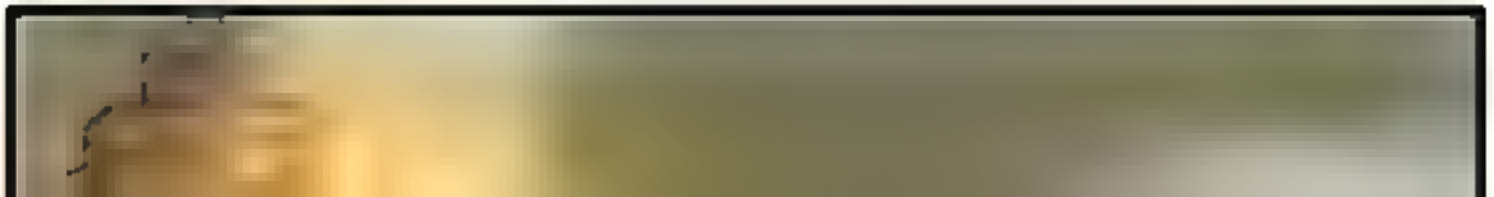
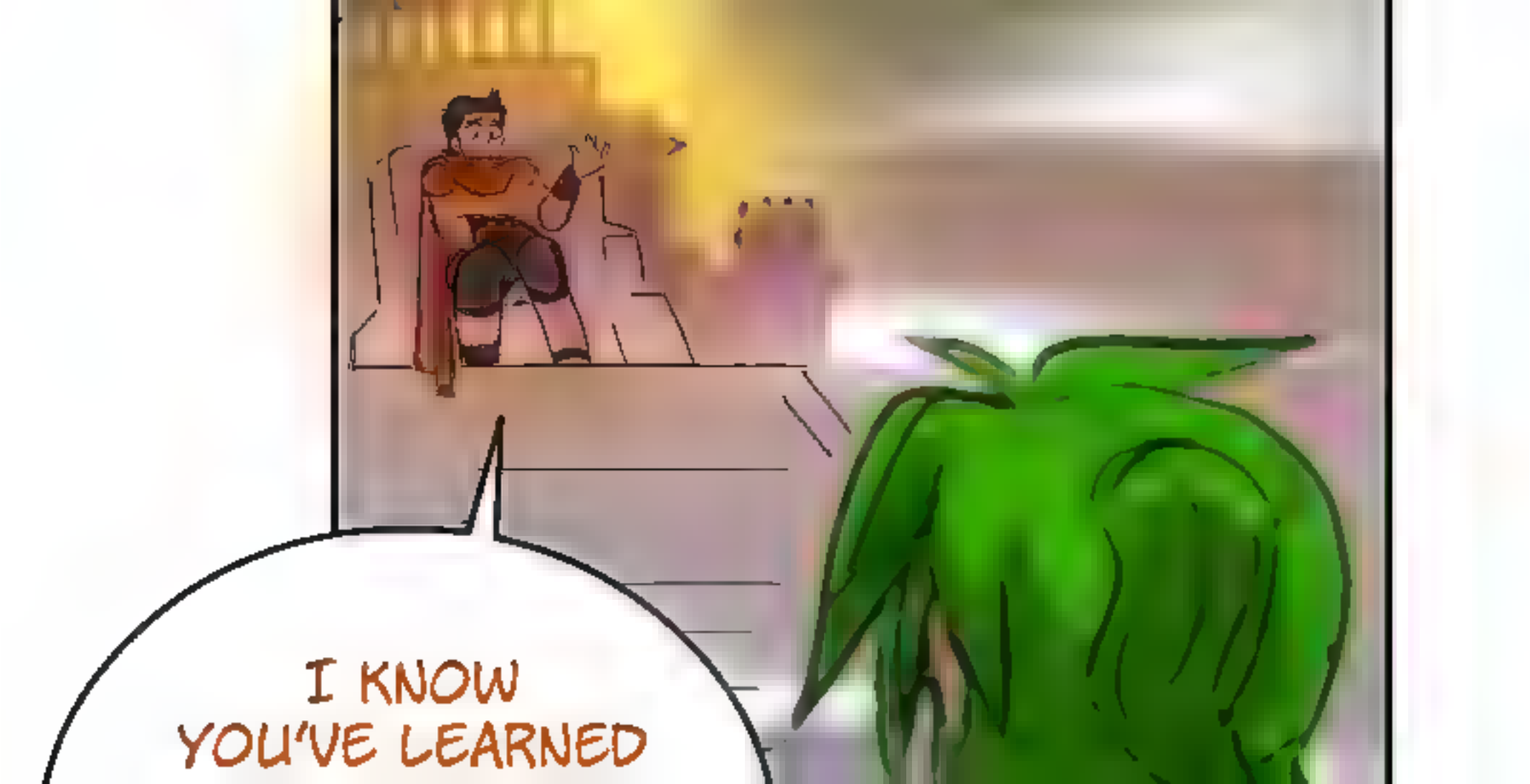
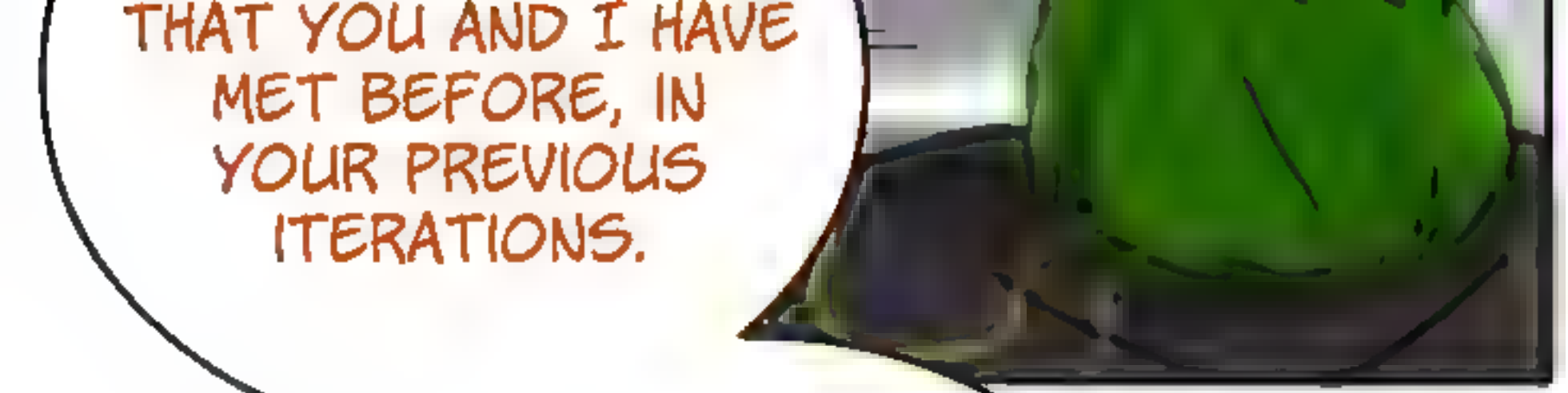




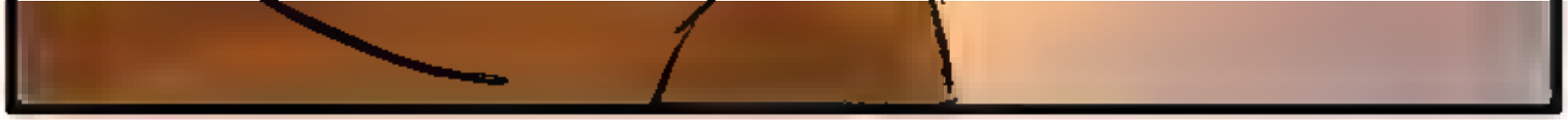

I KNOW
YOU'VE LEARNED



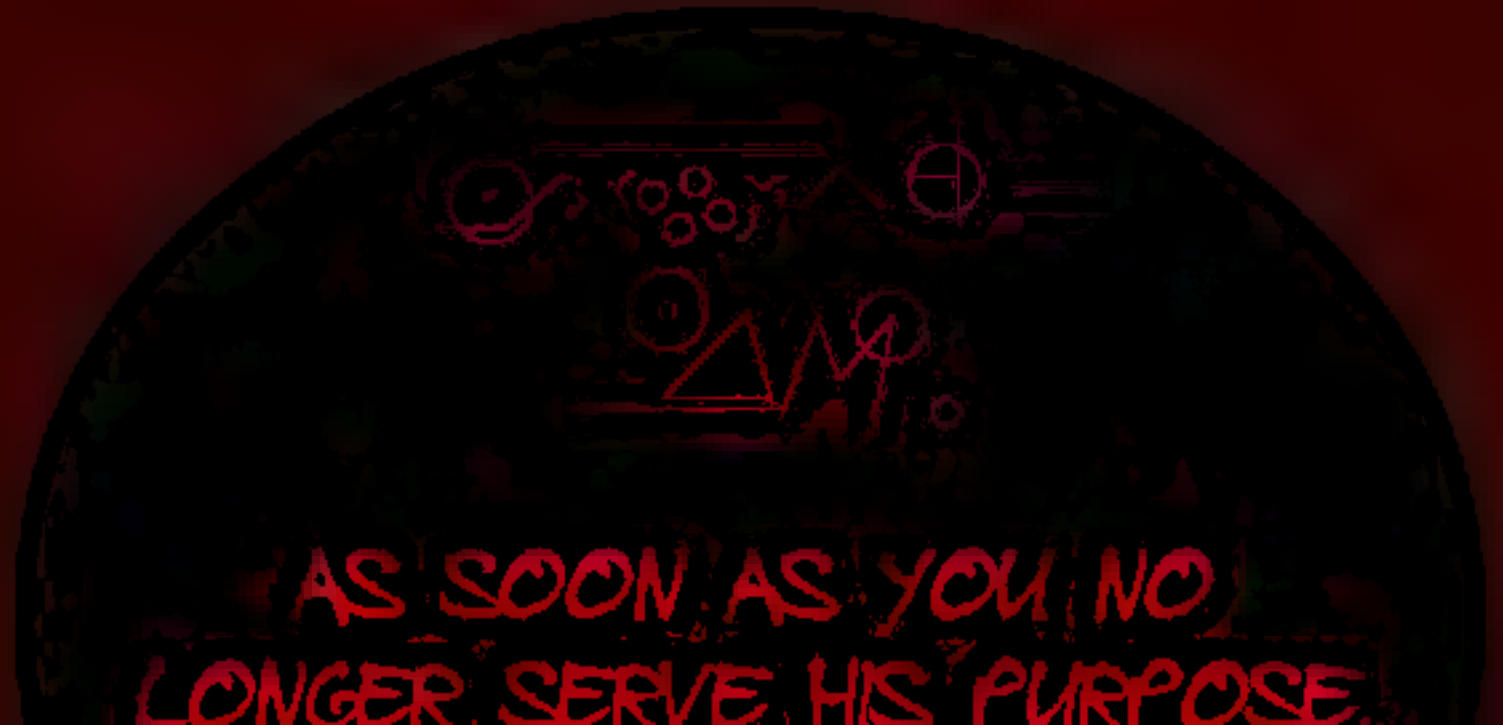
BUT DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE I'VE BEEN THE ONLY ONE BEHIND YOUR DEMISE EVERY TIME?

AFTER DON TOLD ME HIS VERSION OF EVENTS IN A DREAM, I REALIZED...

THE SHADOWS DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW THE WHOLE STORY EITHER.



I HAD NEVER LOOKED BEYOND THE TRUTH EITHER SIDE WANTED ME TO HEAR.

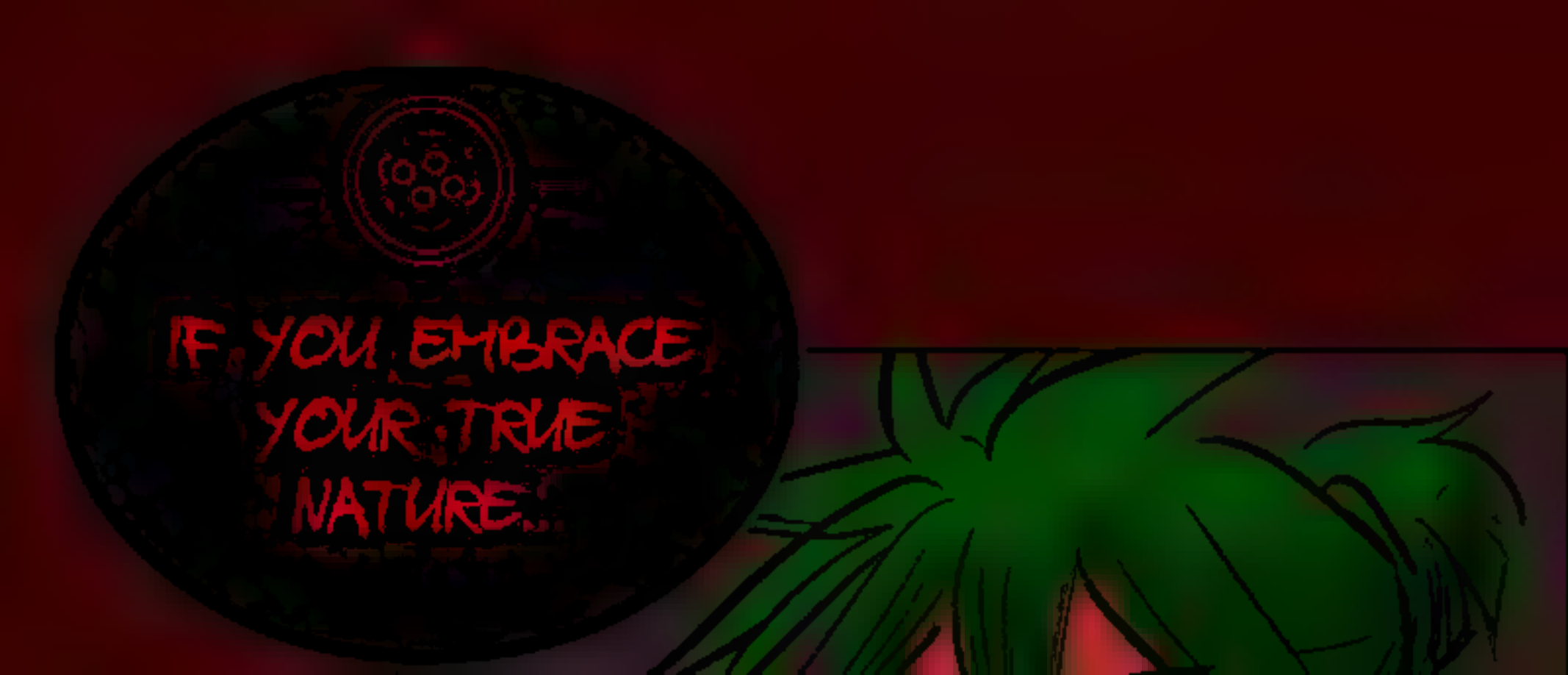

AS SOON AS YOU NO
LONGER SERVE HIS PURPOSE

HE WILL WIPE THE BOARD CLEAN AND TRY AGAIN.

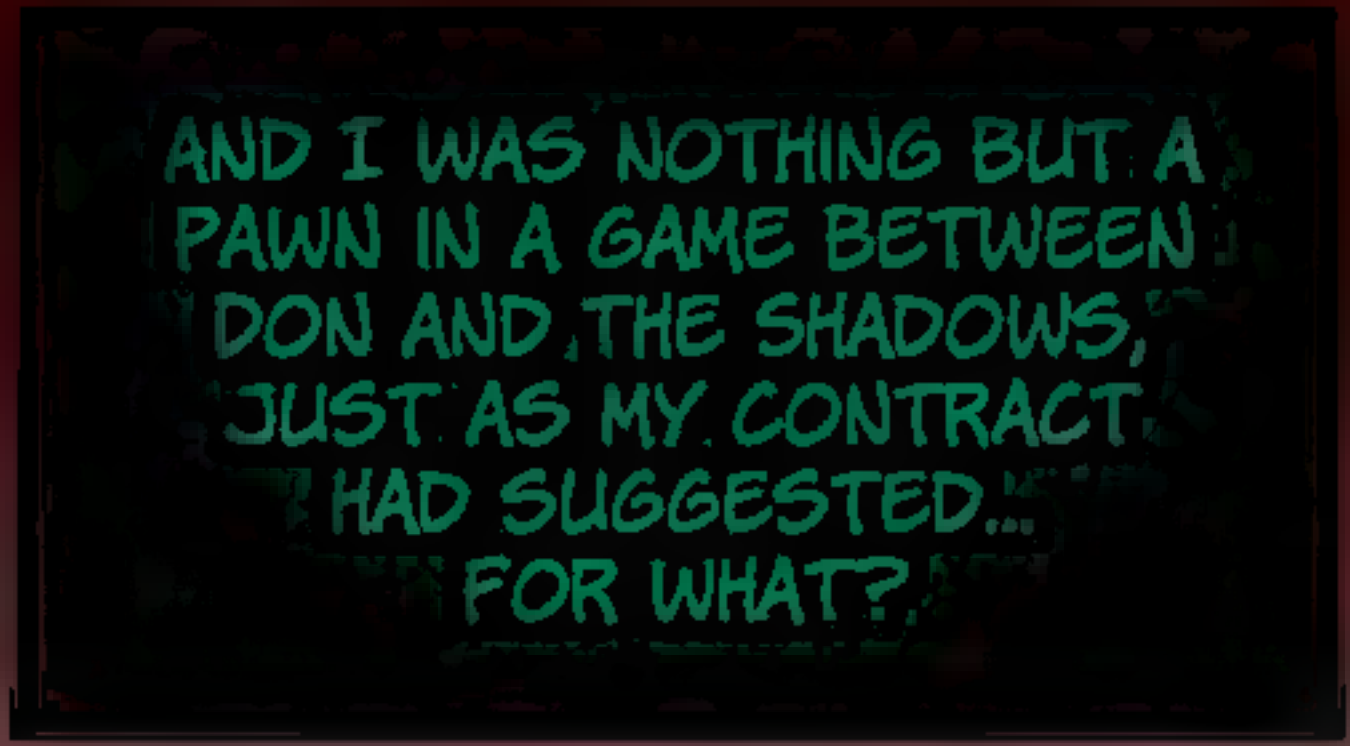
YOU'RE SAYING DON WILL KILL ANYONE WHO STARTS WORKING AGAINST HIM?

YES. AND YOU'RE ALREADY IN DANGER.

BUT YOU
COULD SAVE
YOURSELF

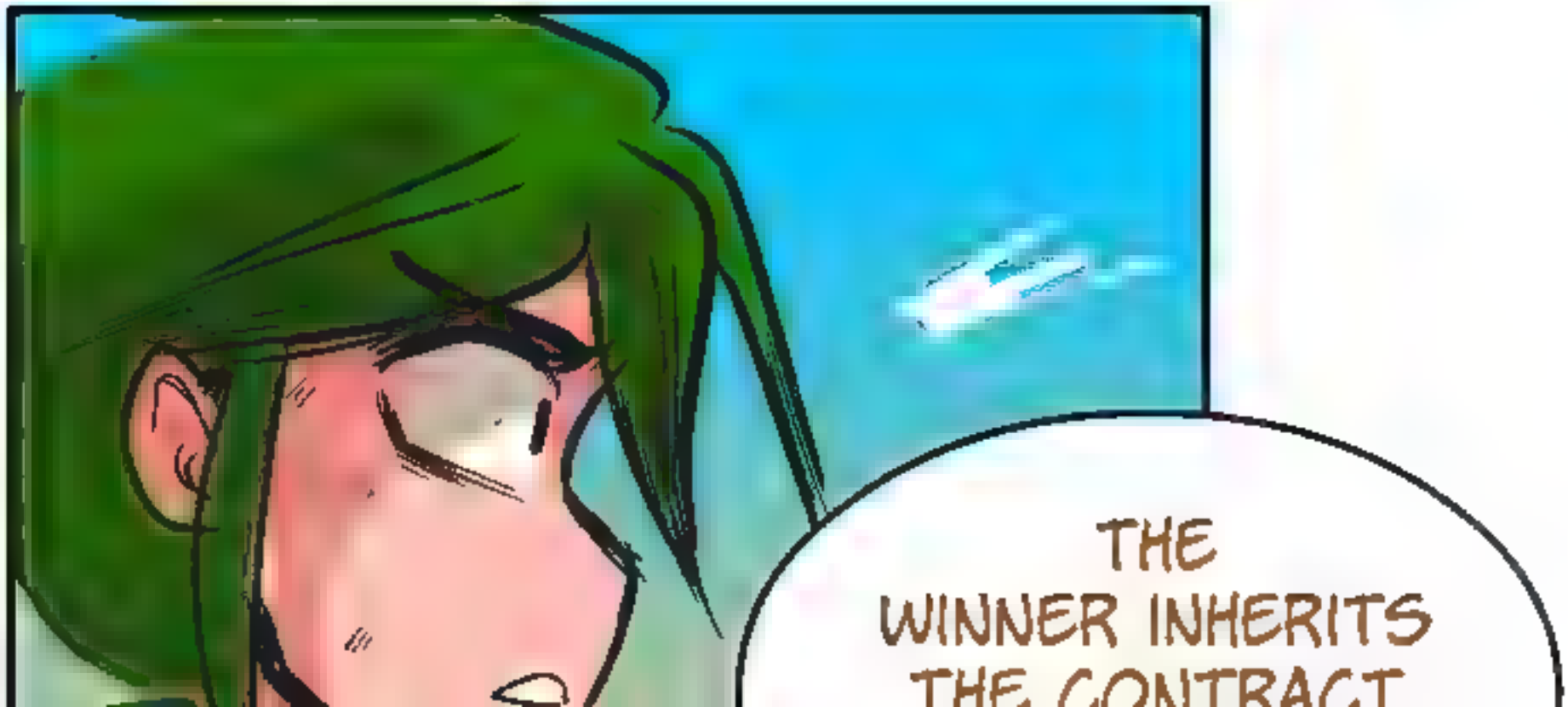

IF YOU EMBRACE
YOUR TRUE
NATURE...

YOU COULD BE
IMMORTAL


AND I WAS NOTHING BUT A PAWN IN A GAME BETWEEN DON AND THE SHADOWS, JUST AS MY CONTRACT HAD SUGGESTED...
FOR WHAT?

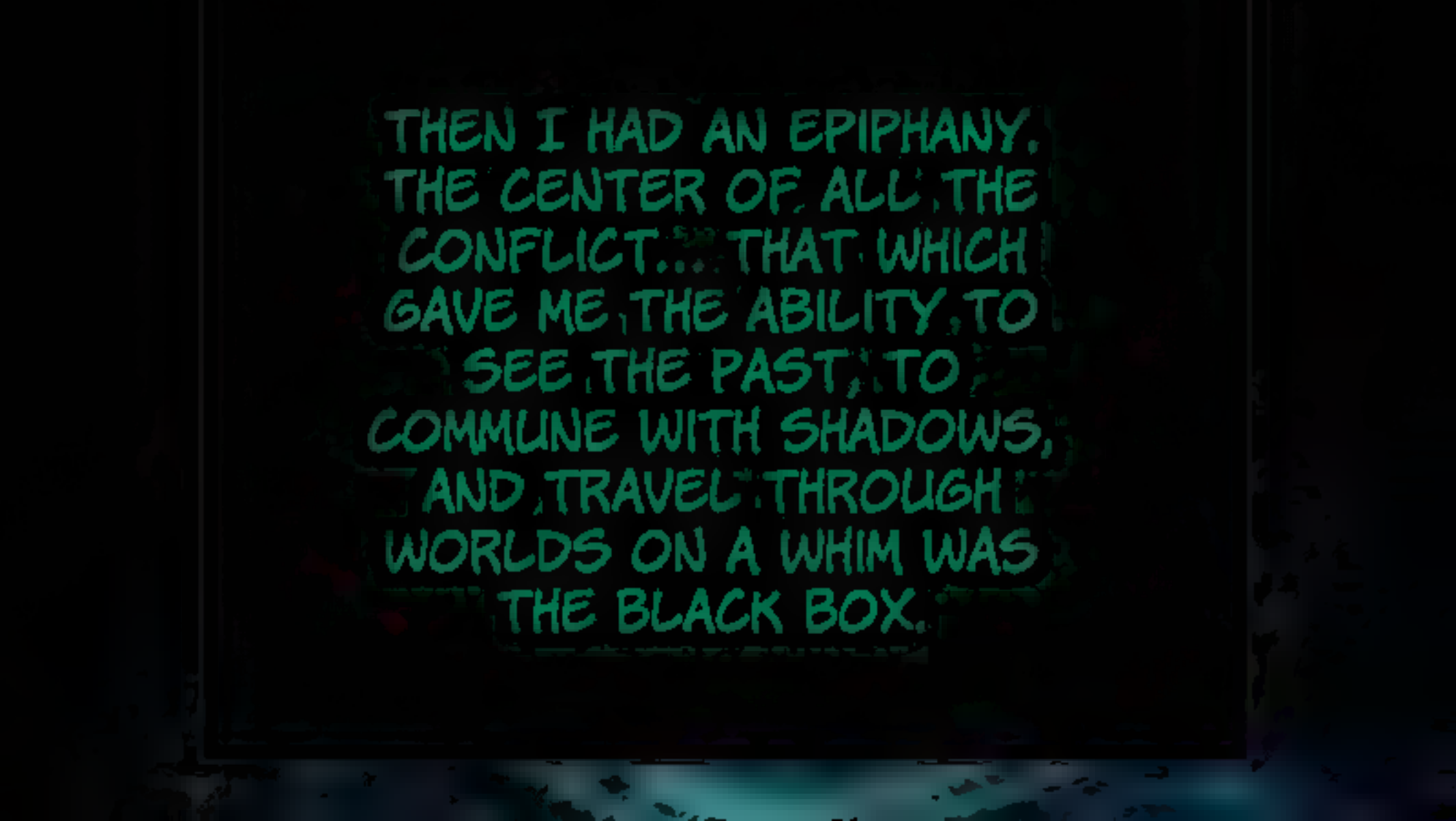
IT'S A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT BETWEEN TWO PARTIES...

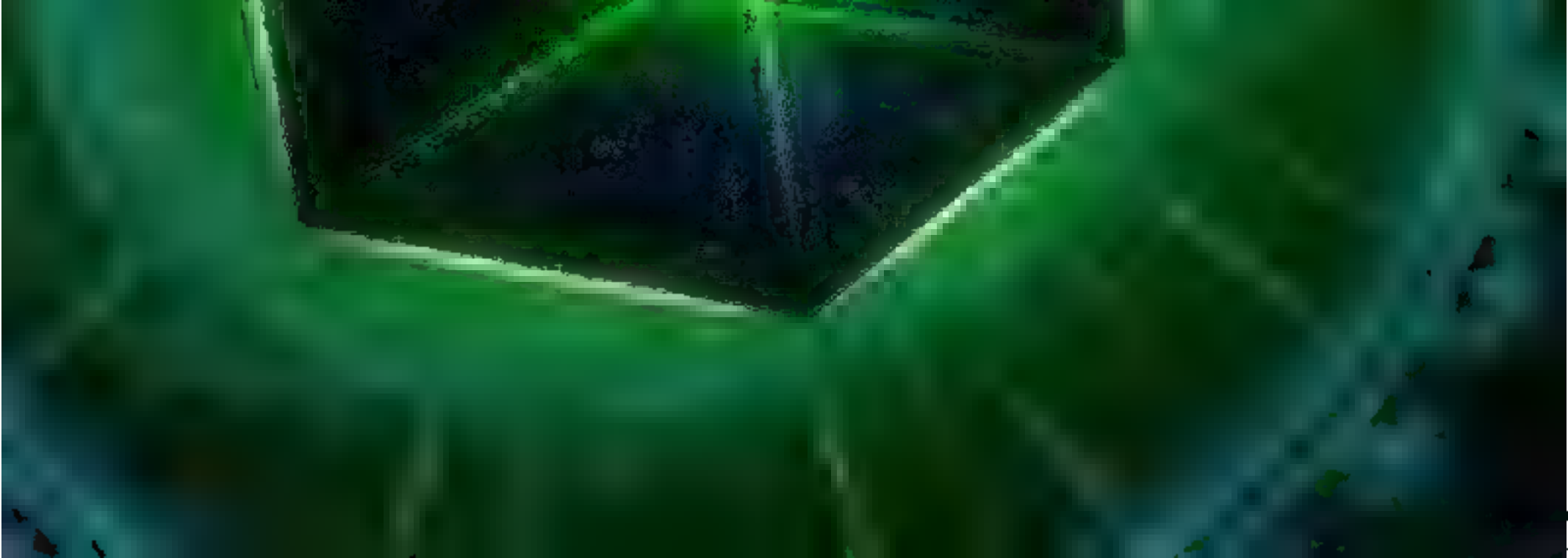
IT JUST SAYS "THE SHADOW" ... AND "DON SANTIAGO".

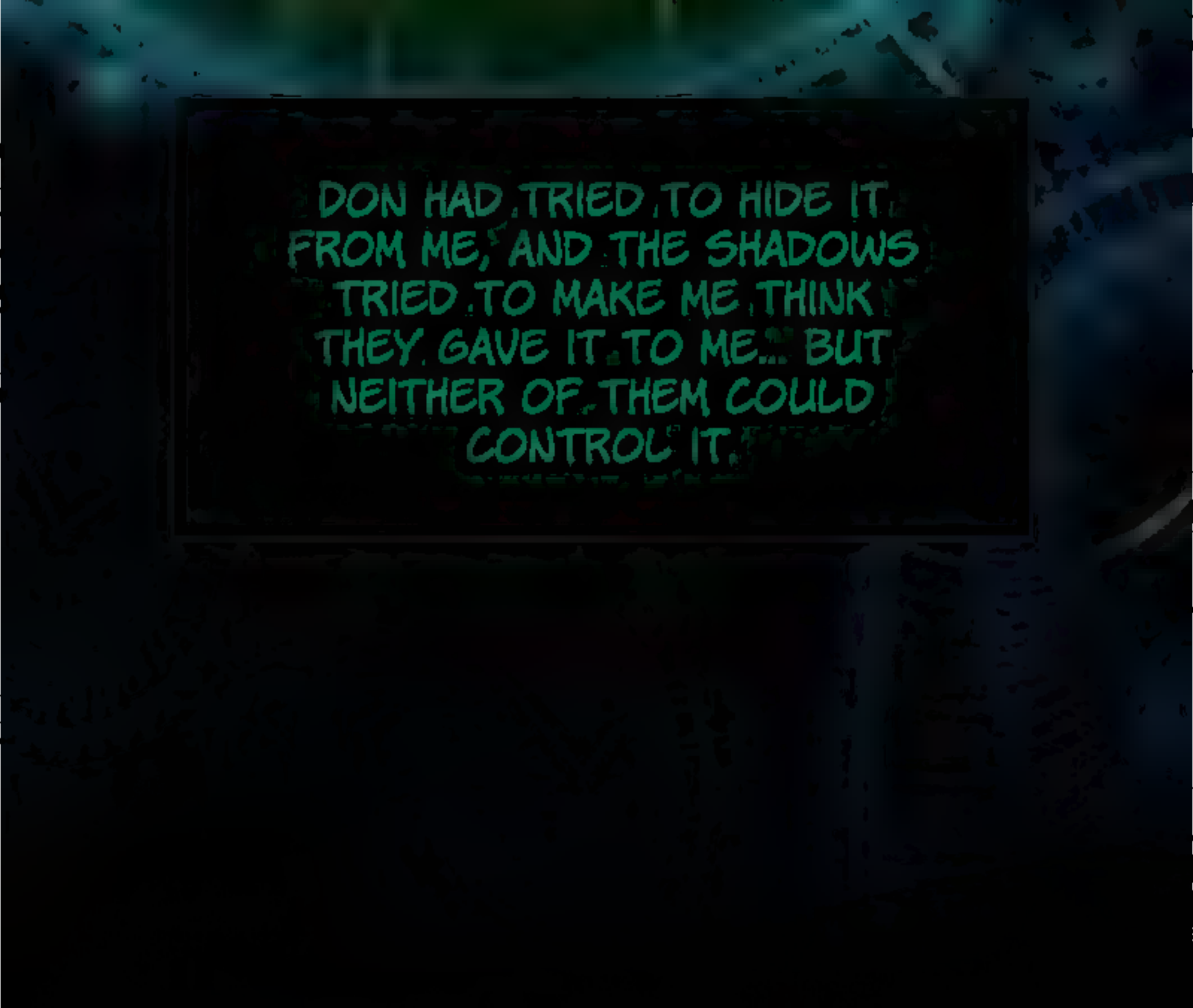

THE
WINNER INHERITS
THE CONTRACT

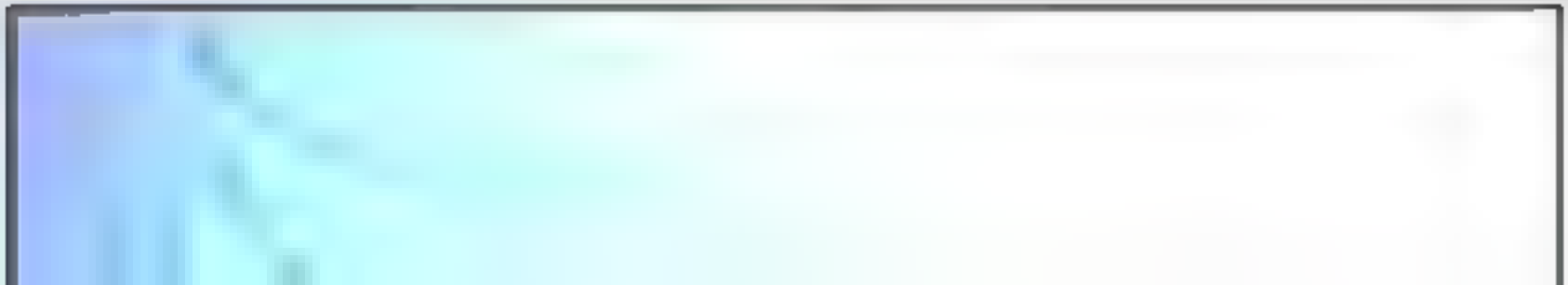
AND THE
PRIZE.

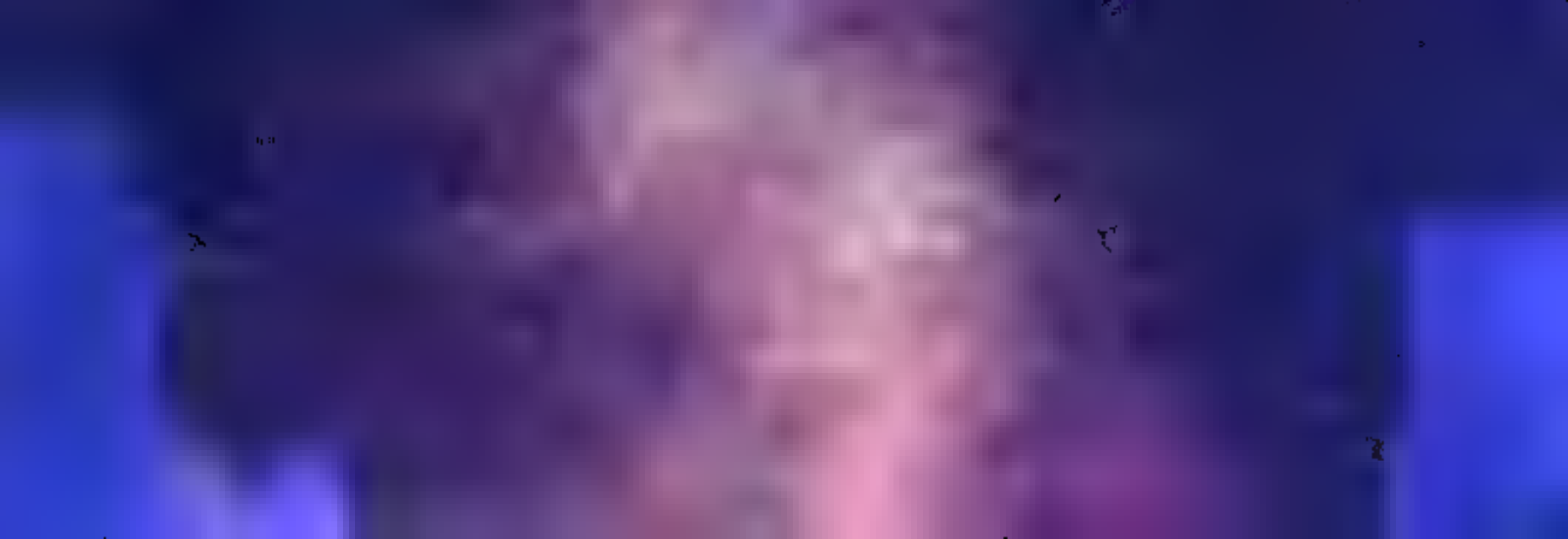
YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE THE PRIZE.

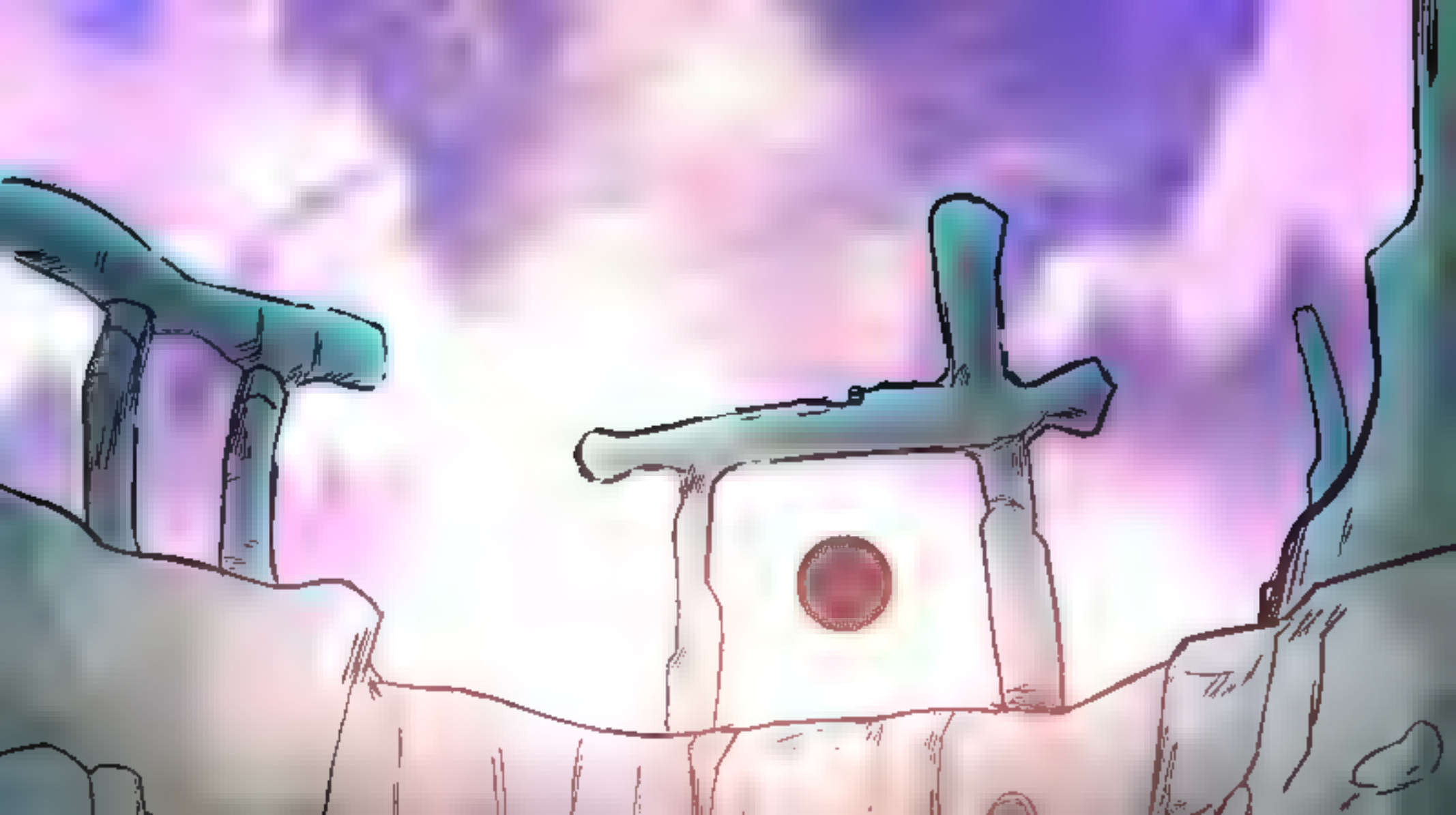

THEN I HAD AN EPIPHANY. THE CENTER OF ALL THE CONFLICT... THAT WHICH GAVE ME THE ABILITY TO SEE THE PAST, TO COMMUNE WITH SHADOWS, AND TRAVEL THROUGH WORLDS ON A WHIM WAS THE BLACK BOX.

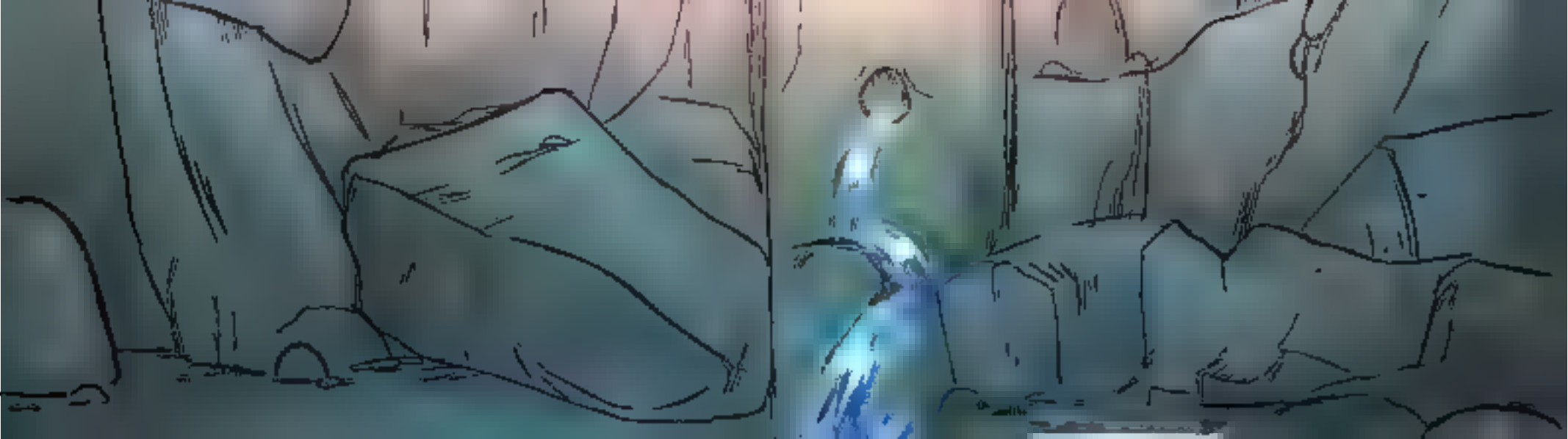


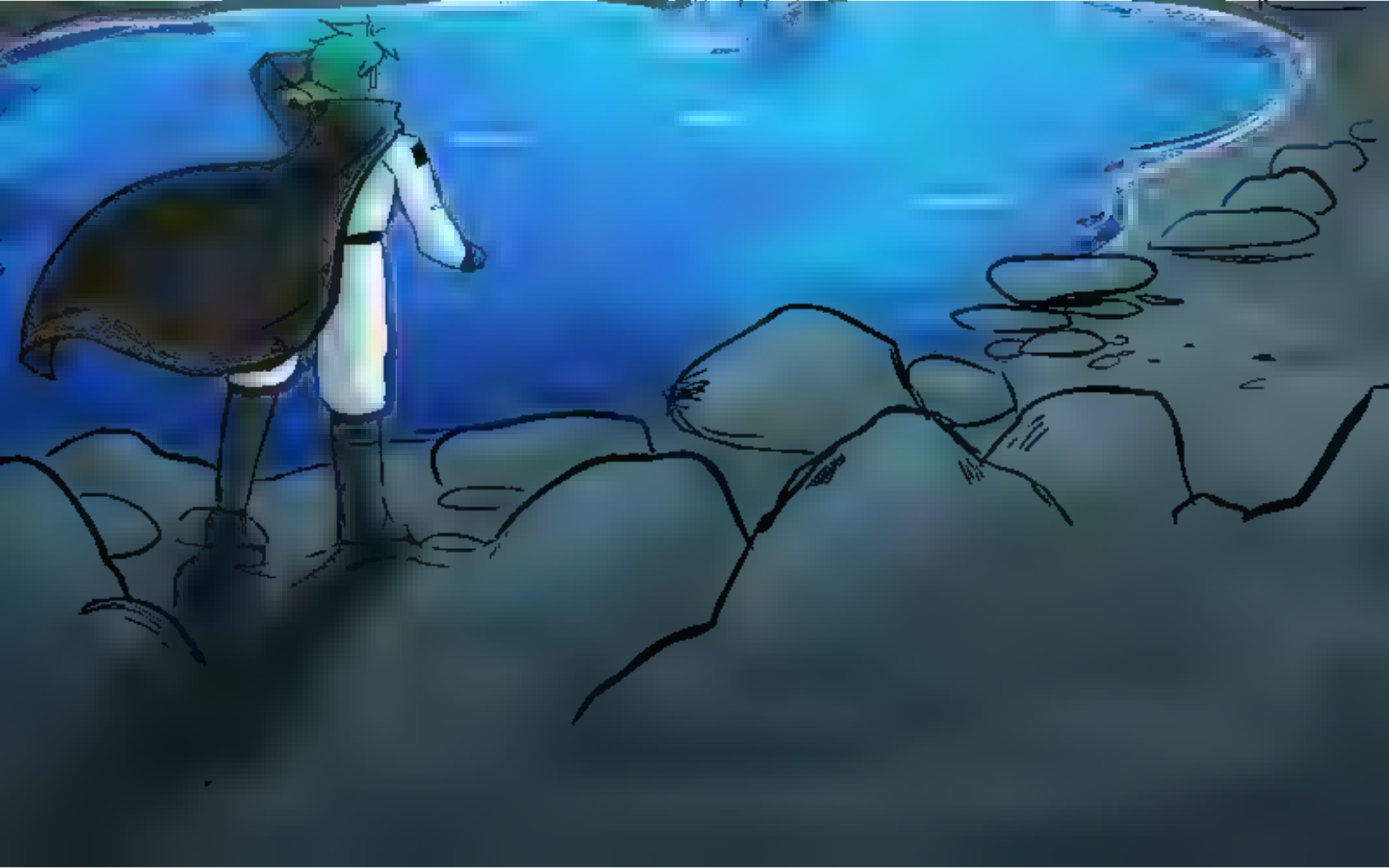

DON HAD TRIED TO HIDE IT FROM ME, AND THE SHADOWS TRIED TO MAKE ME THINK THEY GAVE IT TO ME... BUT NEITHER OF THEM COULD CONTROL IT.

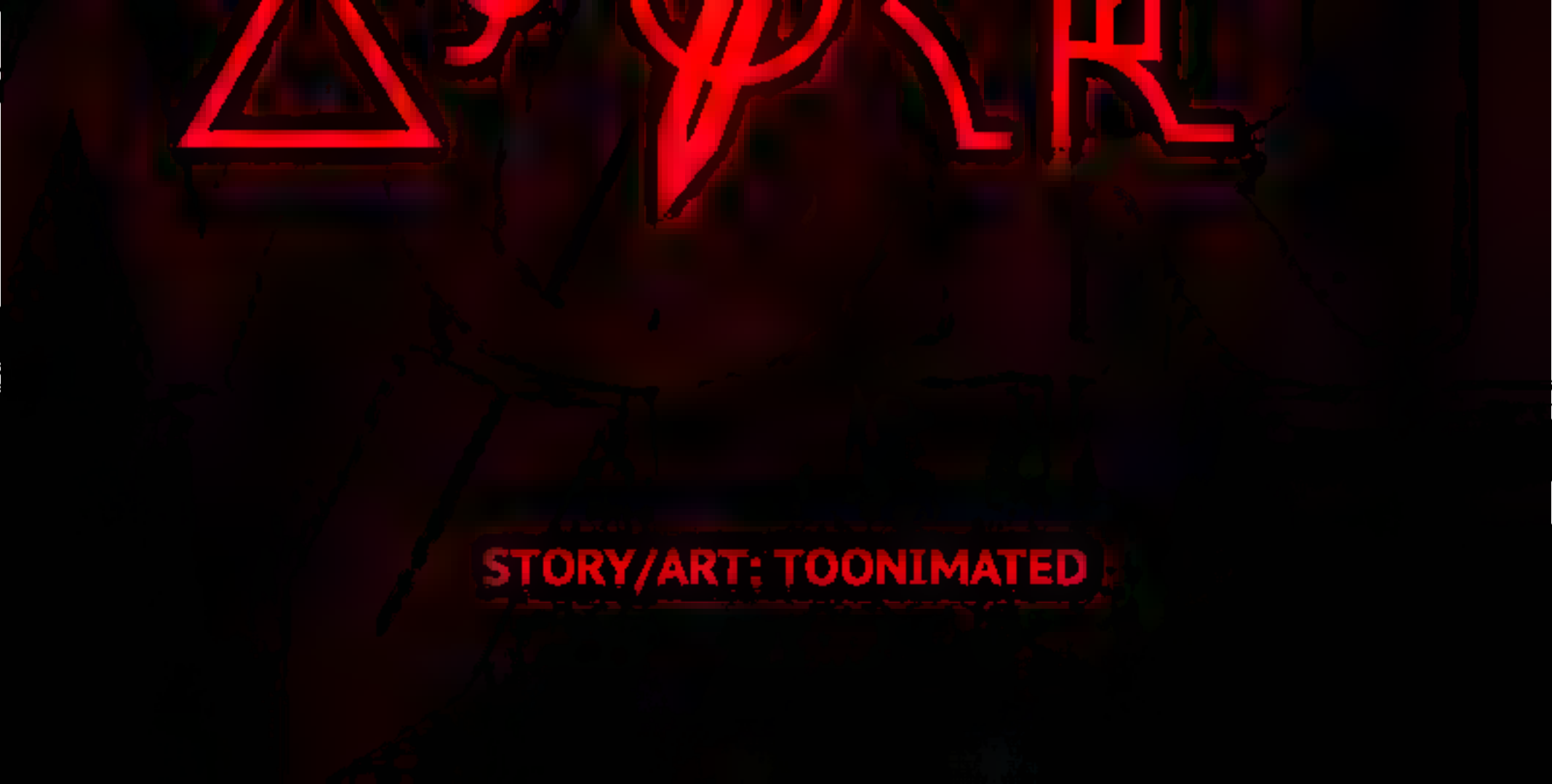








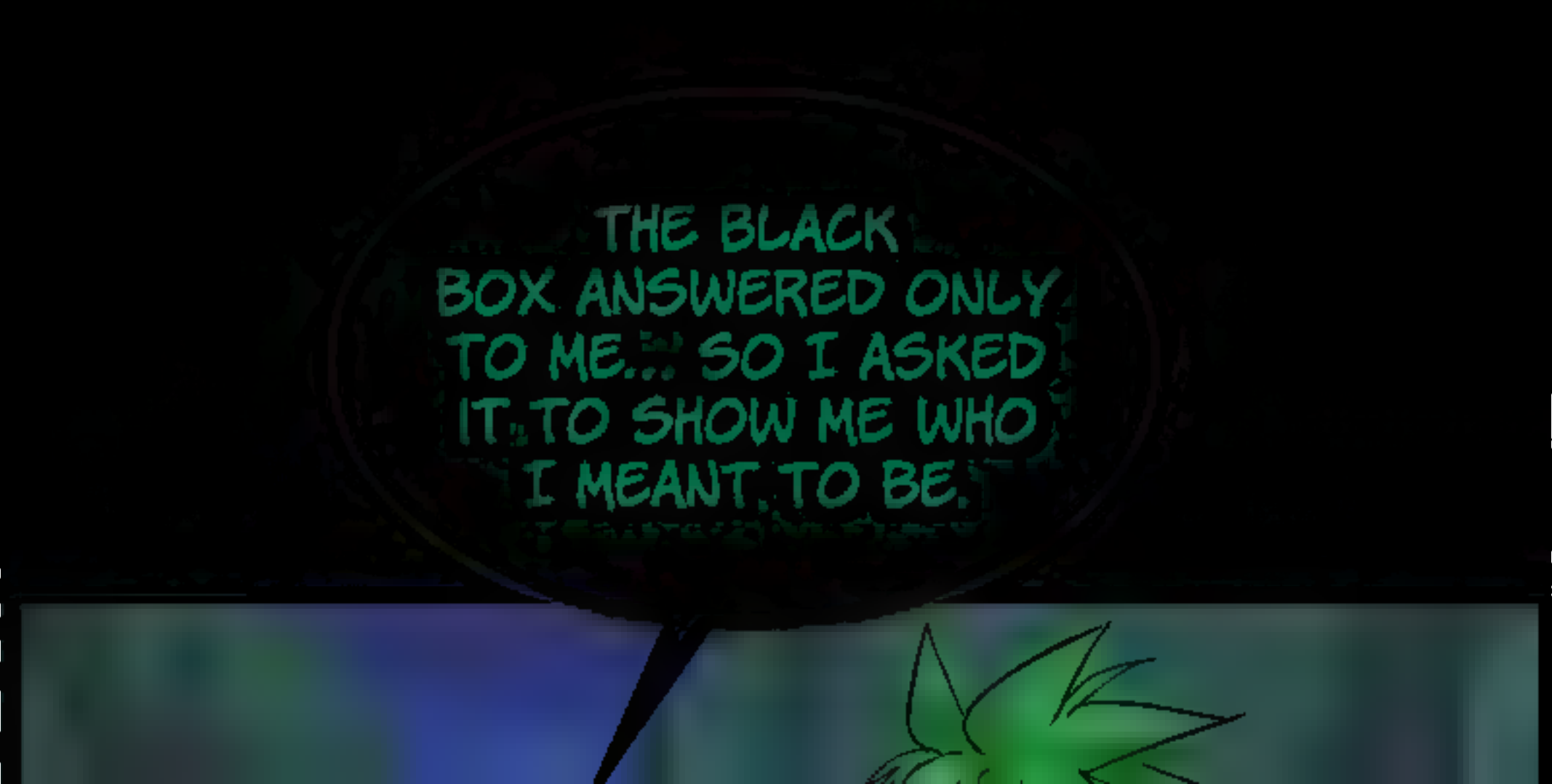



STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

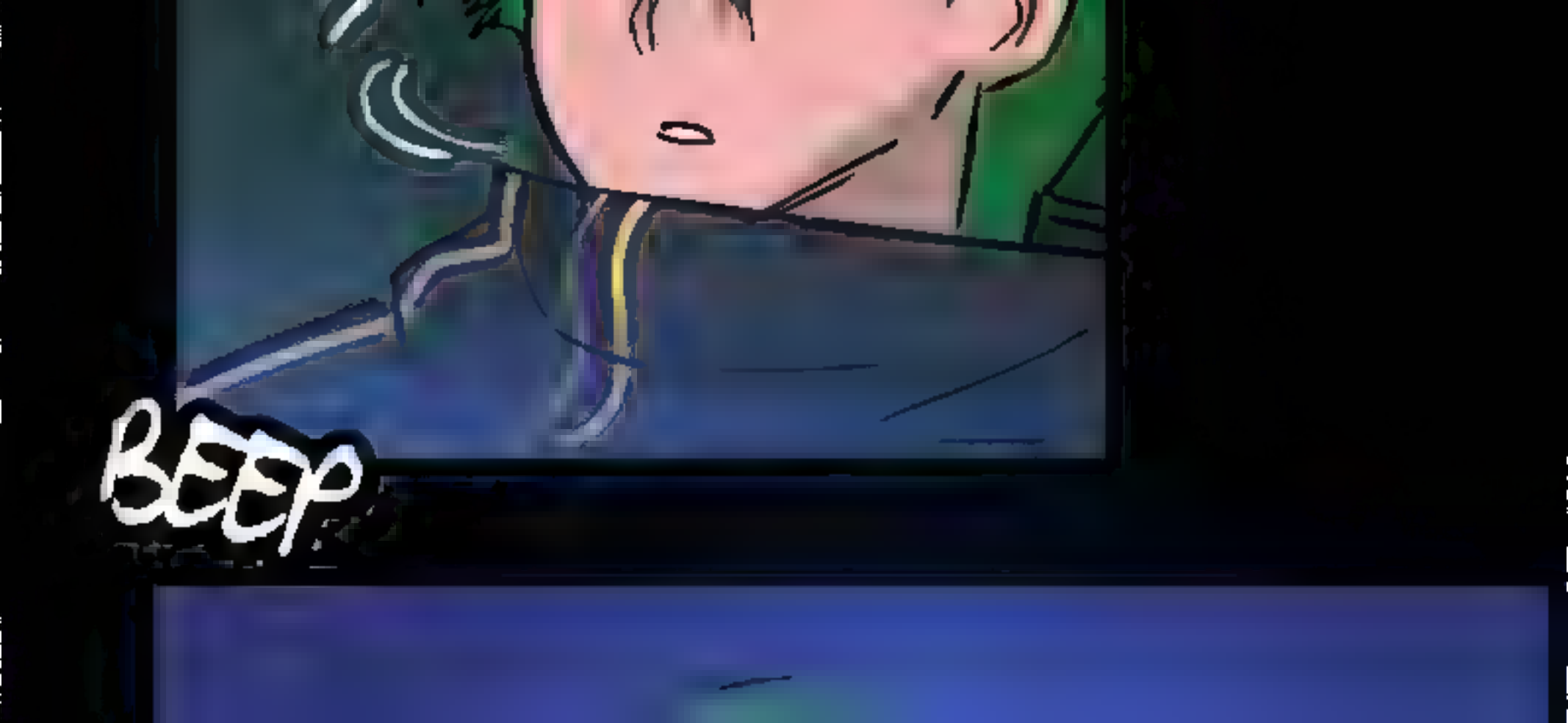
CHAPTER 133

"A STRANGE ENEMY"

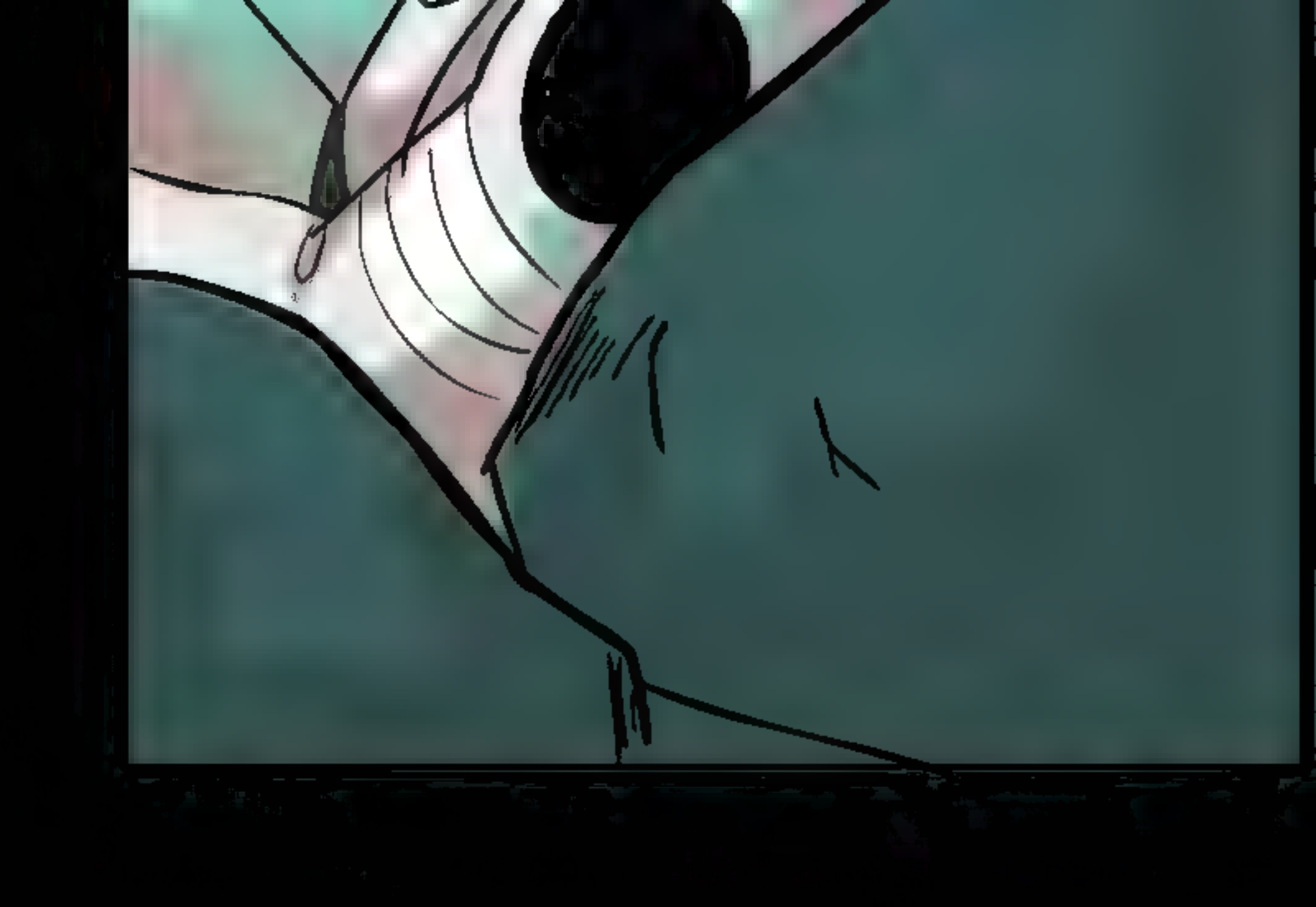
WHERE ARE WE?


THE BLACK BOX ANSWERED ONLY TO ME... SO I ASKED IT TO SHOW ME WHO I MEANT TO BE.

BEEP


BEEP

BEEP



DIOS MIO...!
BEEP

BEEP

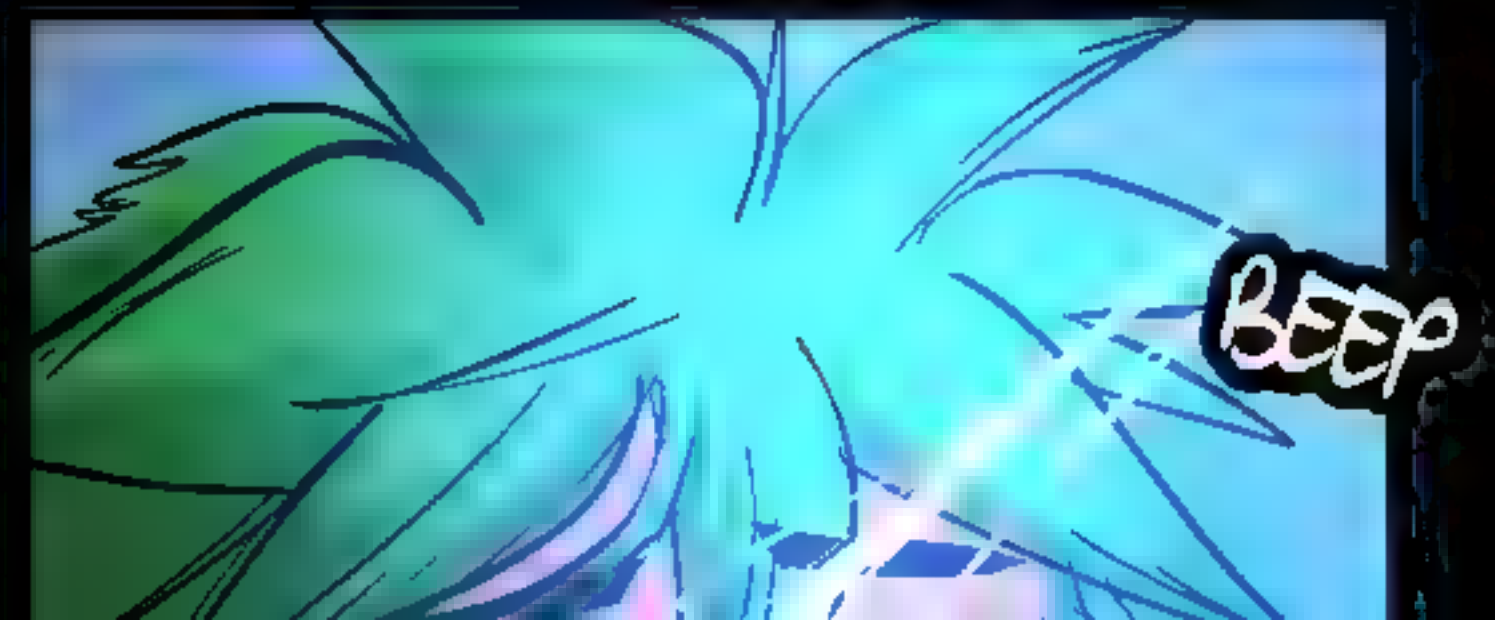
THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE HERE!

DON!

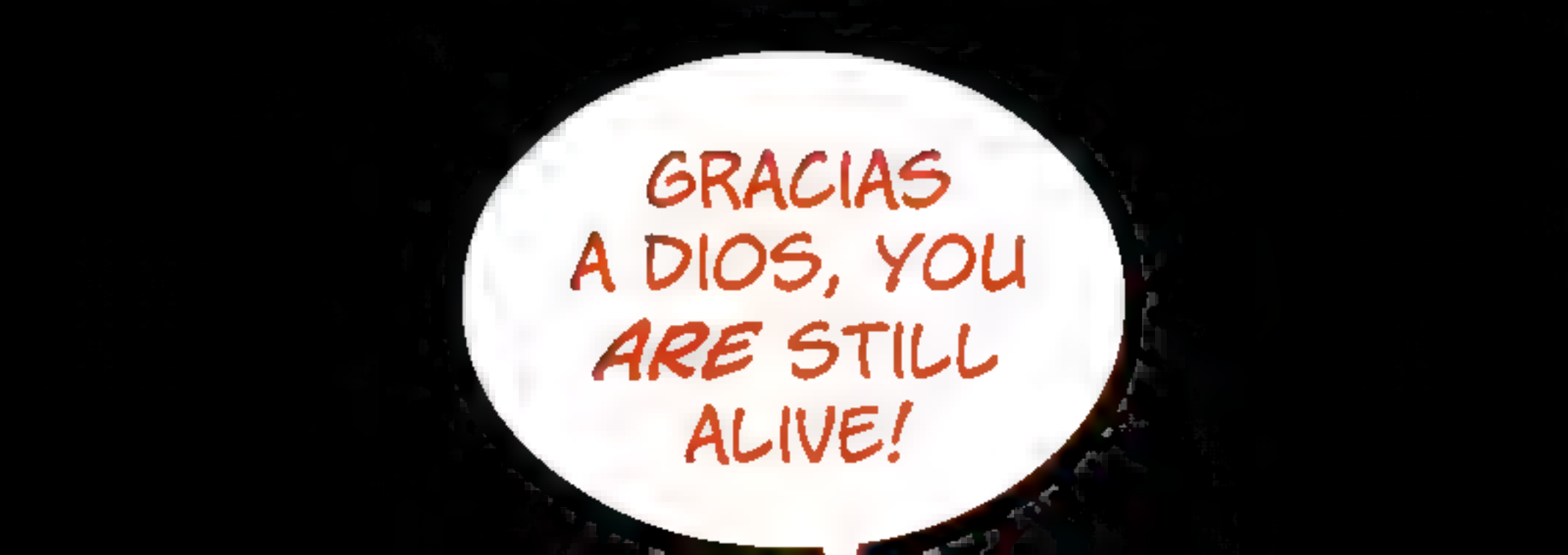
OYE!
CAN YOU HEAR
ME?

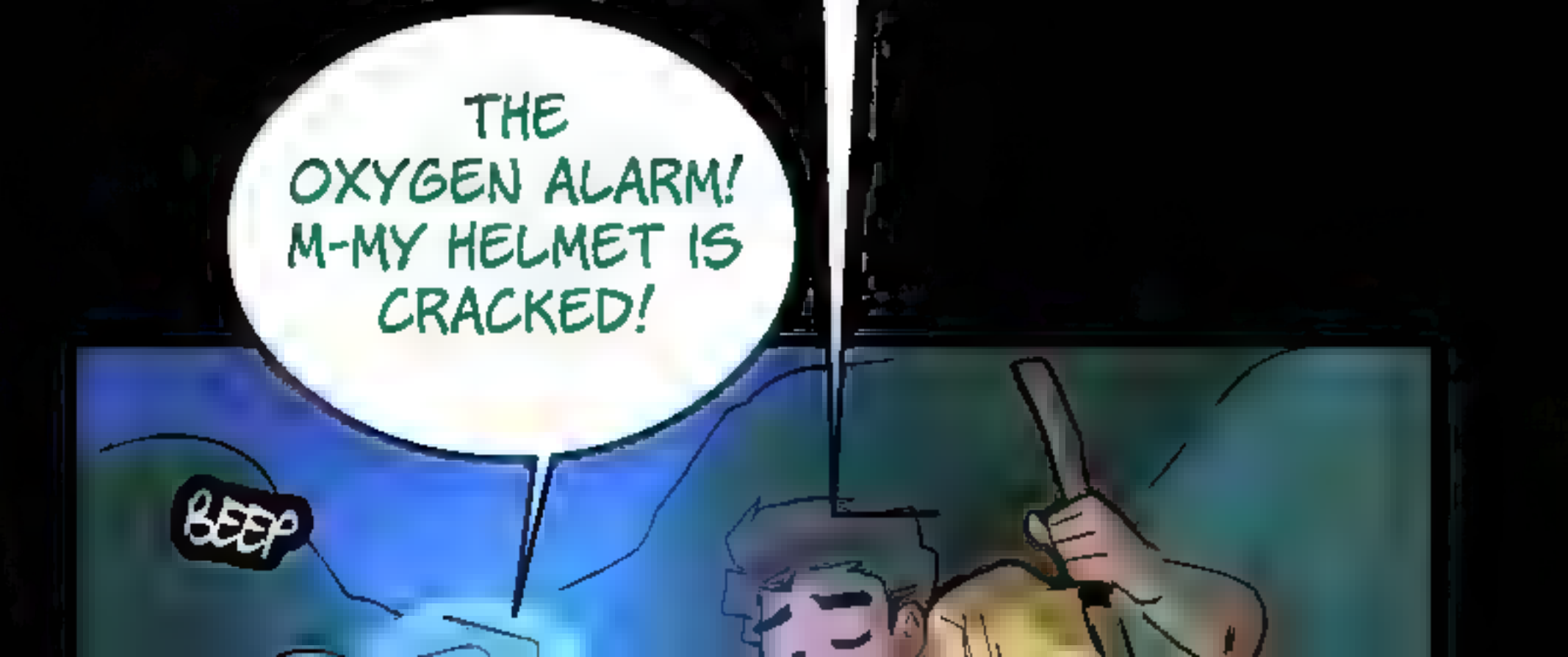
BEEP

BEEP
ARE YOU OKAY?

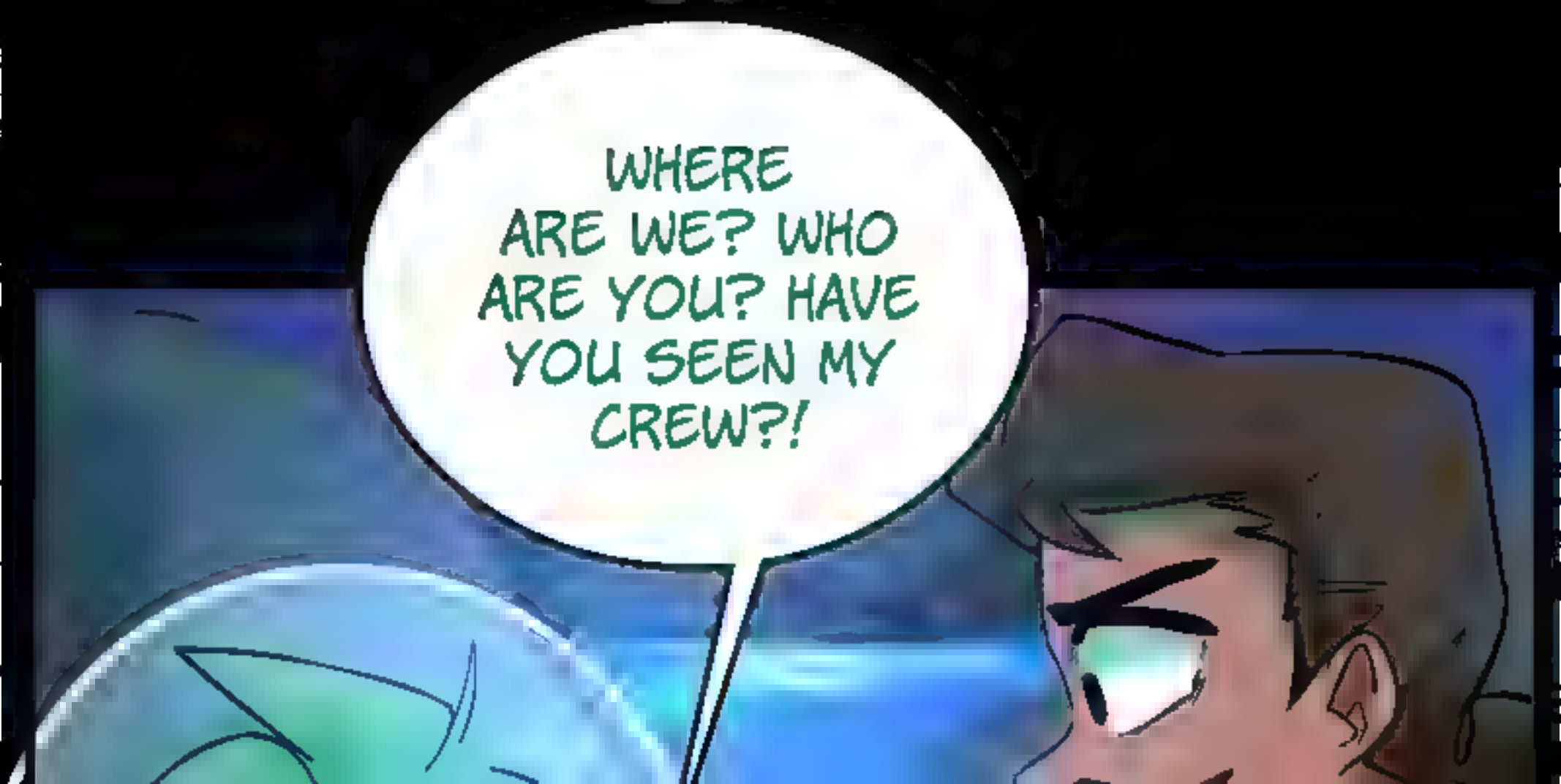

BEEP

NGH...
CAPTAIN
IRO?


GRACIAS A DIOS, YOU ARE STILL ALIVE!


THE OXYGEN ALARM! M-MY HELMET IS CRACKED!
BEEP

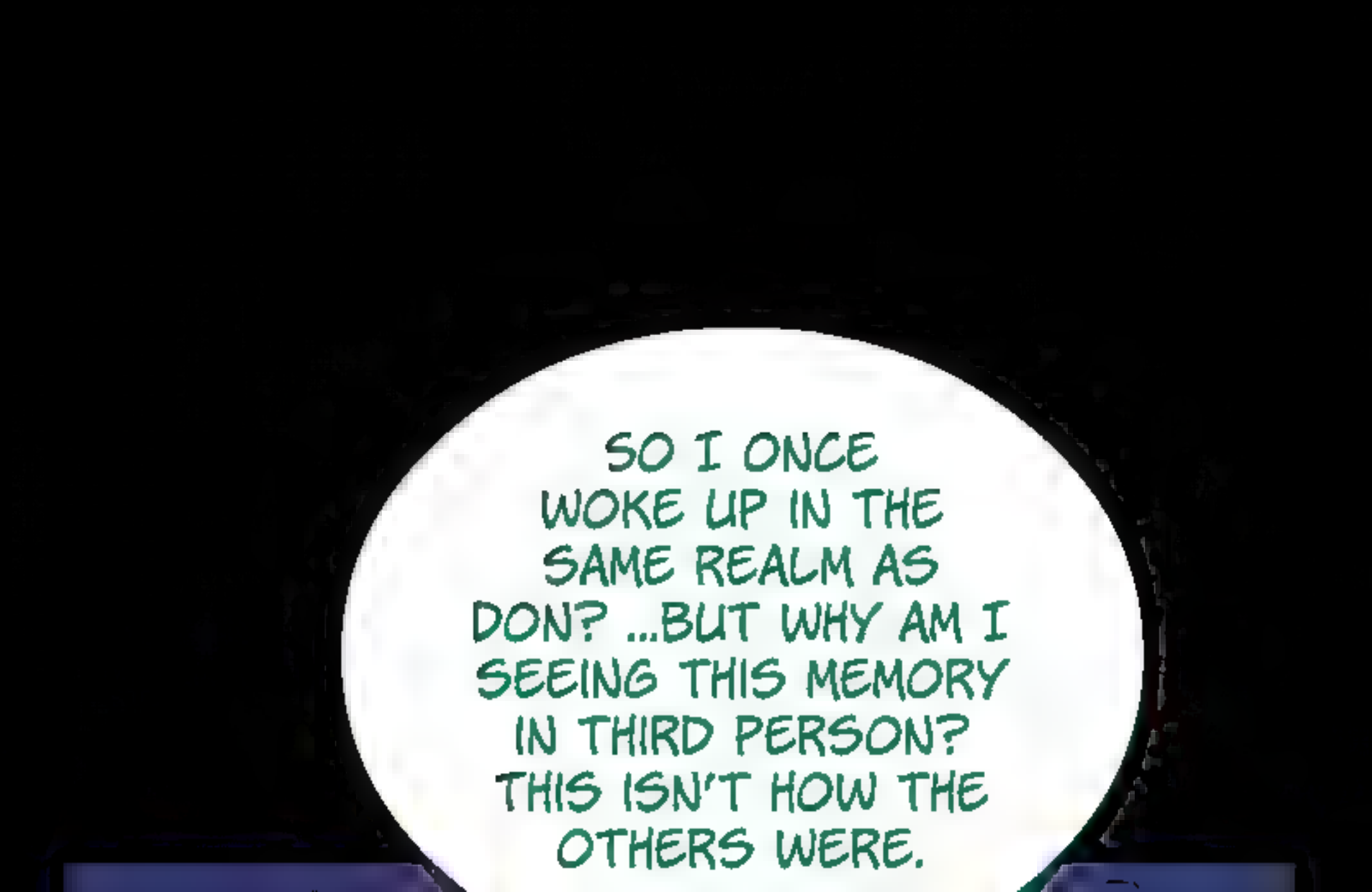
...BUT WAIT, I CAN STILL BREATHE?!
BEE...


WHERE ARE WE? WHO ARE YOU? HAVE YOU SEEN MY CREW?!

SLOW DOWN, AMIGO. MI NOMBRE ES DON SANTIAGO.

I'M NOT SURE WHERE WE ARE, BUT I DID SEE A CLOAKED NOT LONG AGO.

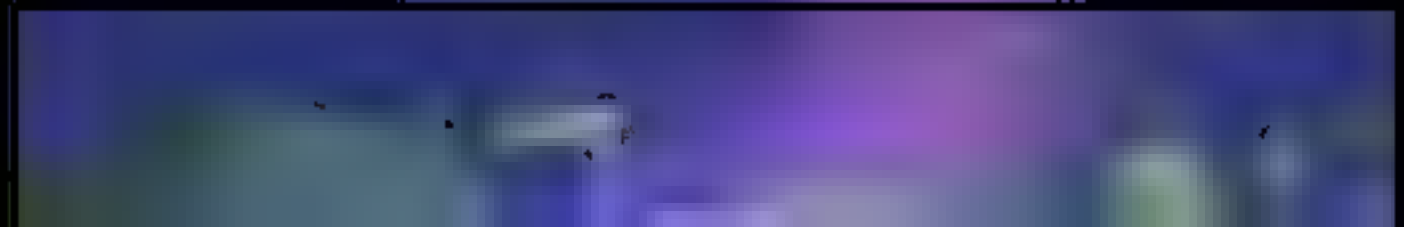
I TRIED TO REACH THEM, BUT THEY WALKED AWAY AND I LOST SIGHT OF THEM RIGHT BEFORE I FOUND YOU.

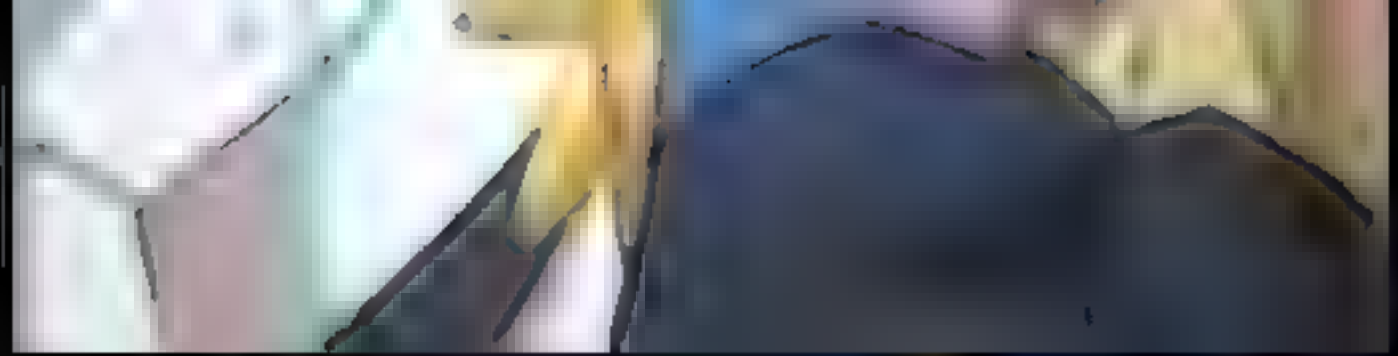

SO I ONCE WOKE UP IN THE SAME REALM AS DON? ...BUT WHY AM I SEEING THIS MEMORY IN THIRD PERSON? THIS ISN'T HOW THE OTHERS WERE.

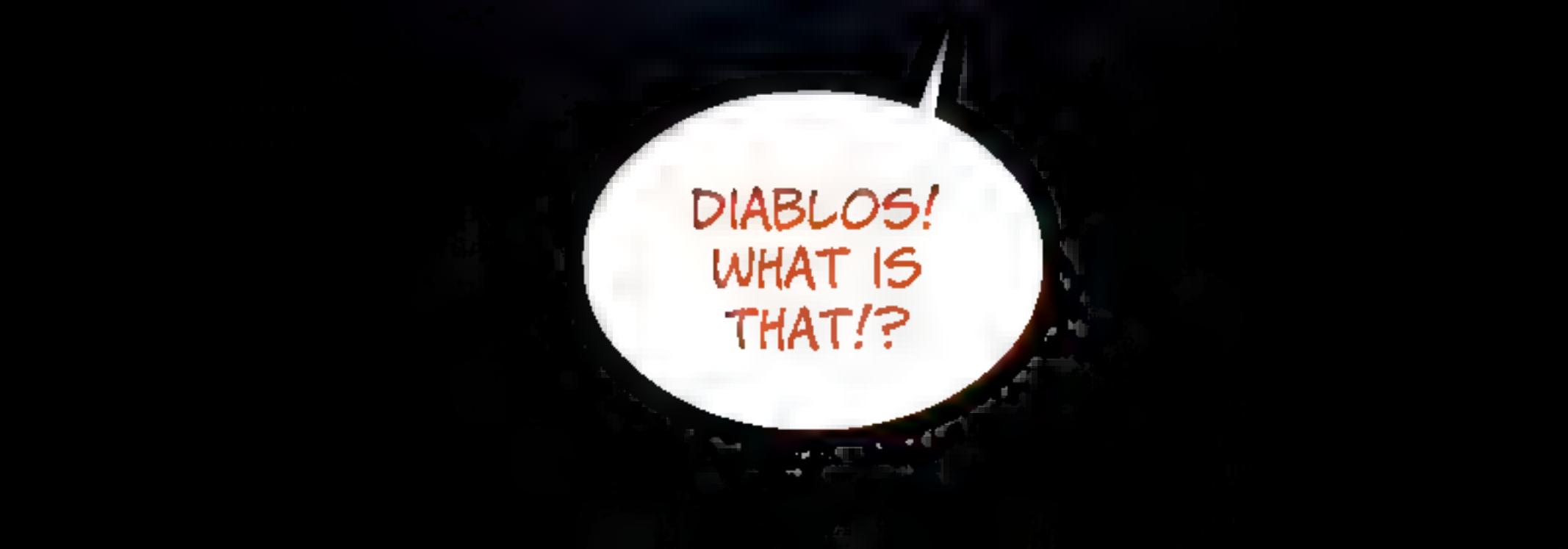
WE'RE USING THE BLACK BOX TO SEE THIS MEMORY FROM A DIFFERENT SET OF EYES.

IS THAT WHAT YOU SAW?!

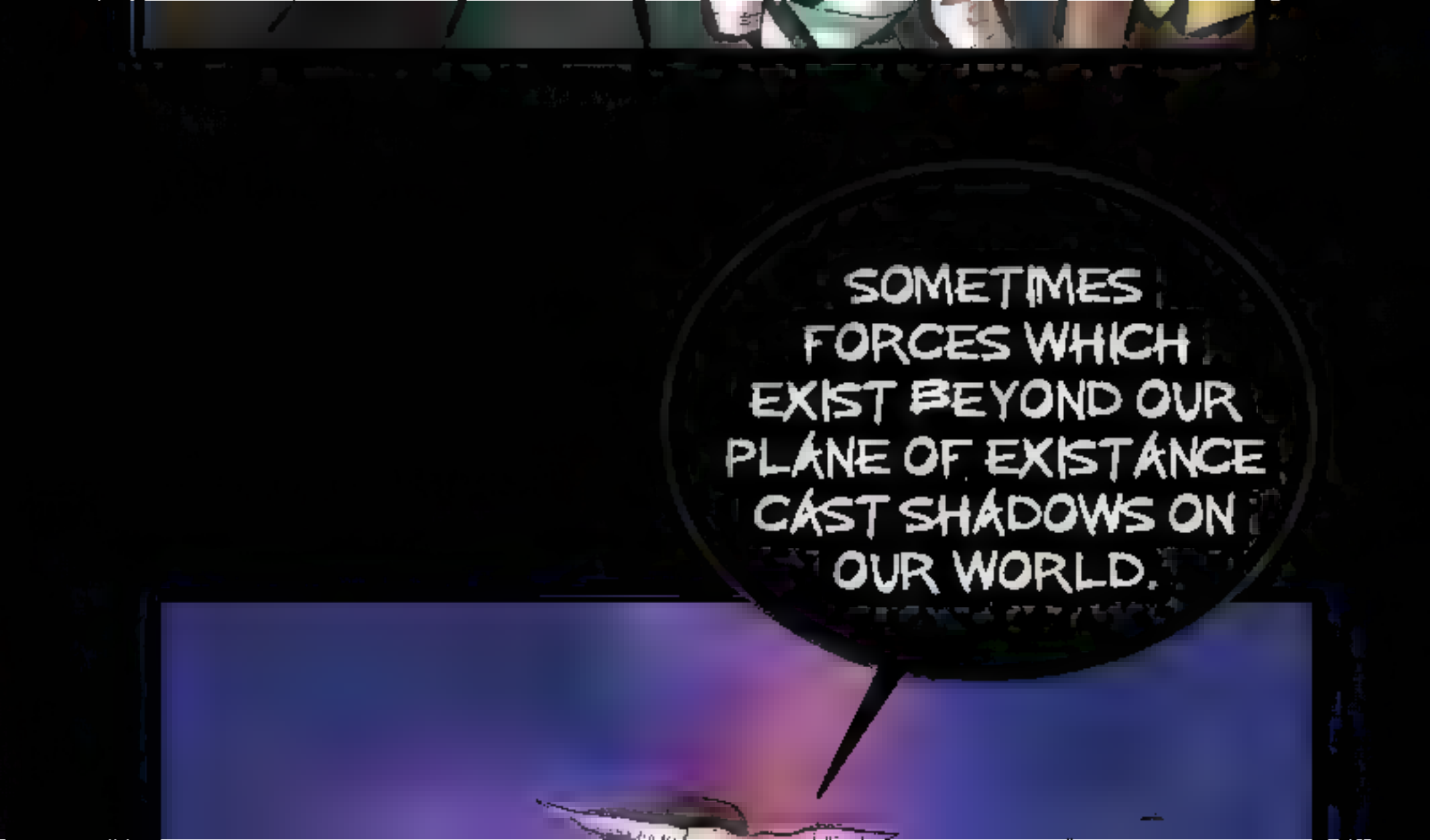
DONDE...?



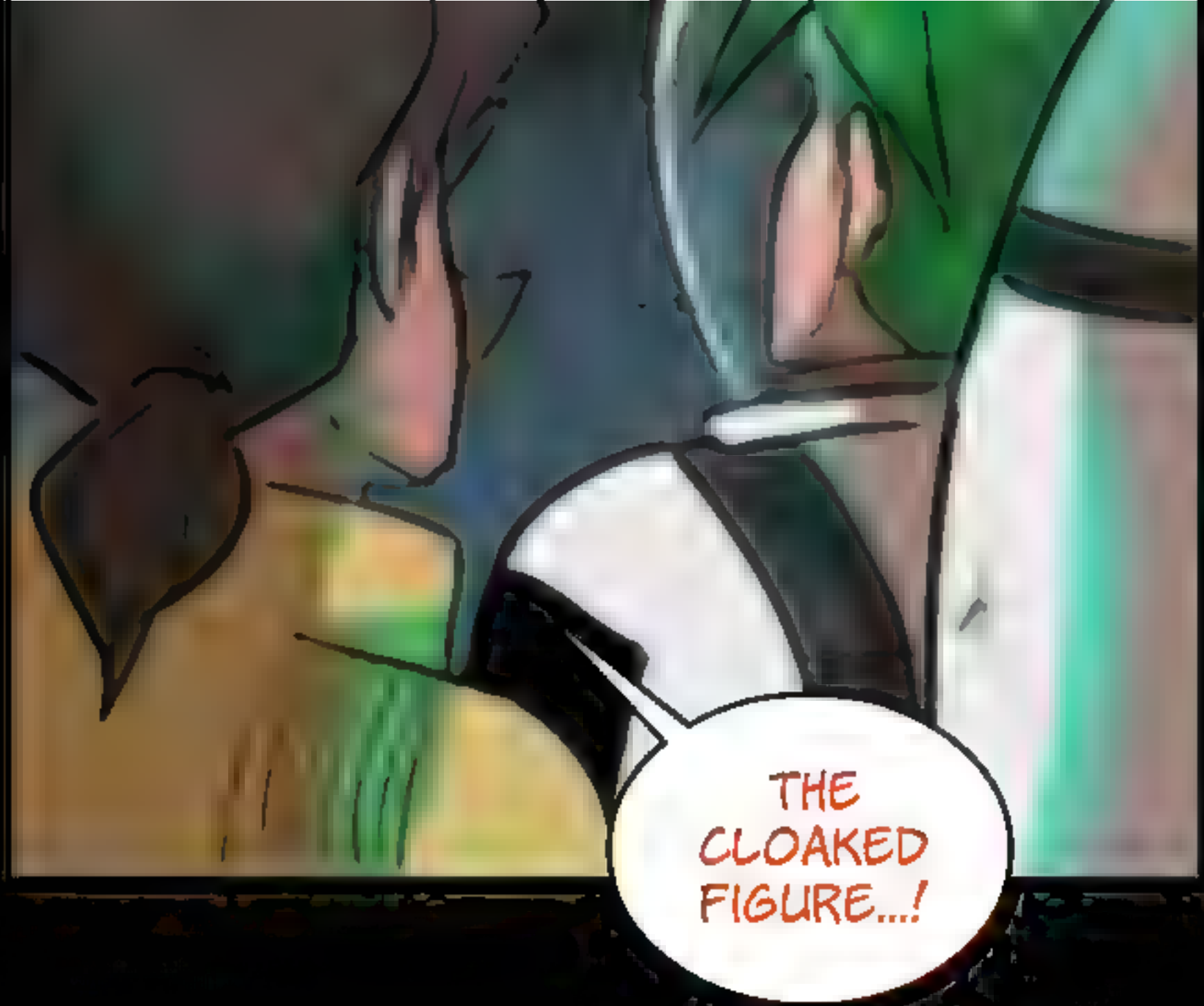



DIABLOS! WHAT IS THAT!?

A SHADOW!


SOMETIMES FORCES WHICH EXIST BEYOND OUR PLANE OF EXISTANCE CAST SHADOWS ON OUR WORLD.

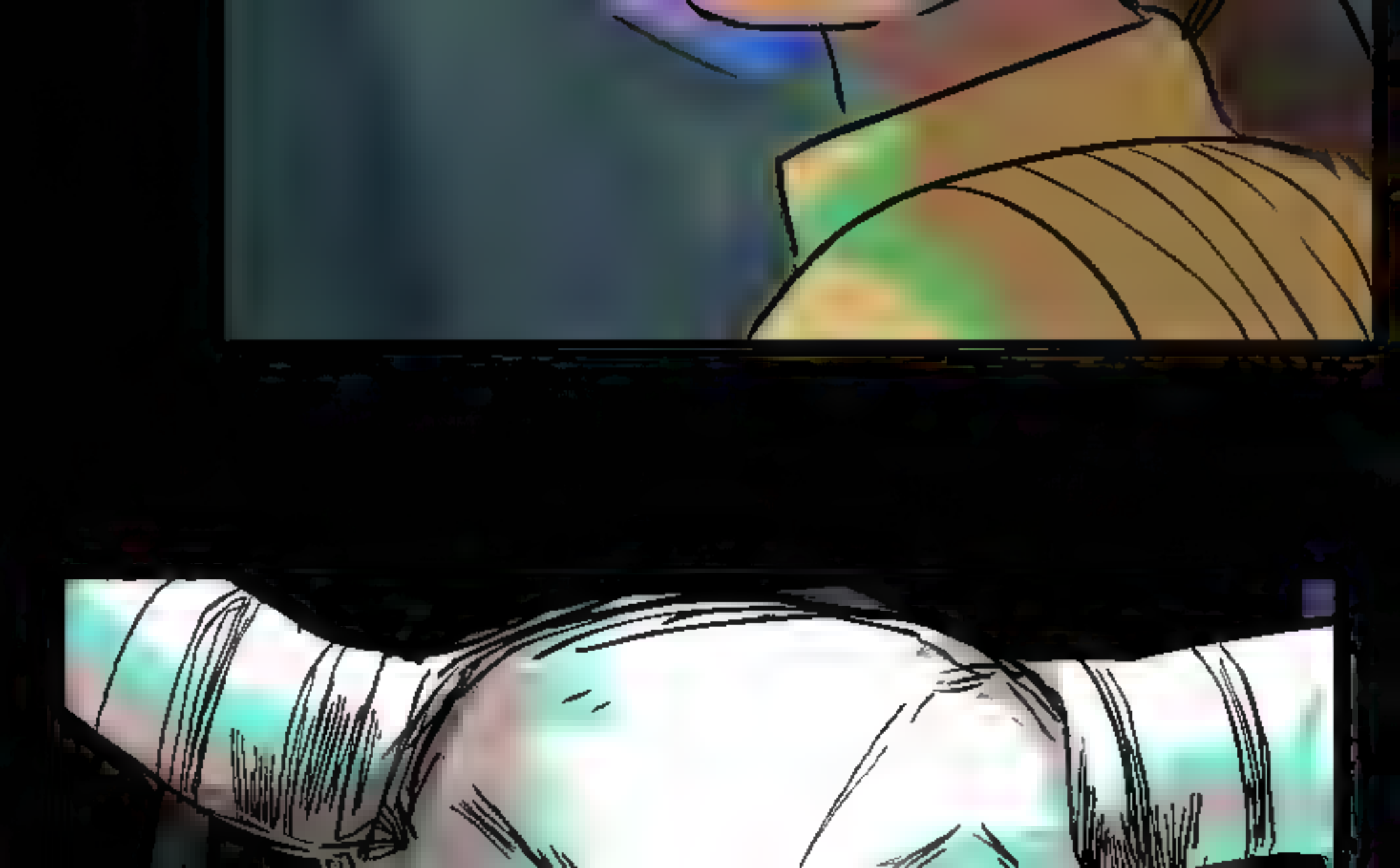
UNLESS YOU CAN TRANSCEND SPACE AND TIME, YOU'D DO BEST TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.


THE CLOAKED FIGURE...!

WELCOME, HOPELESSLY LOST SOULS...

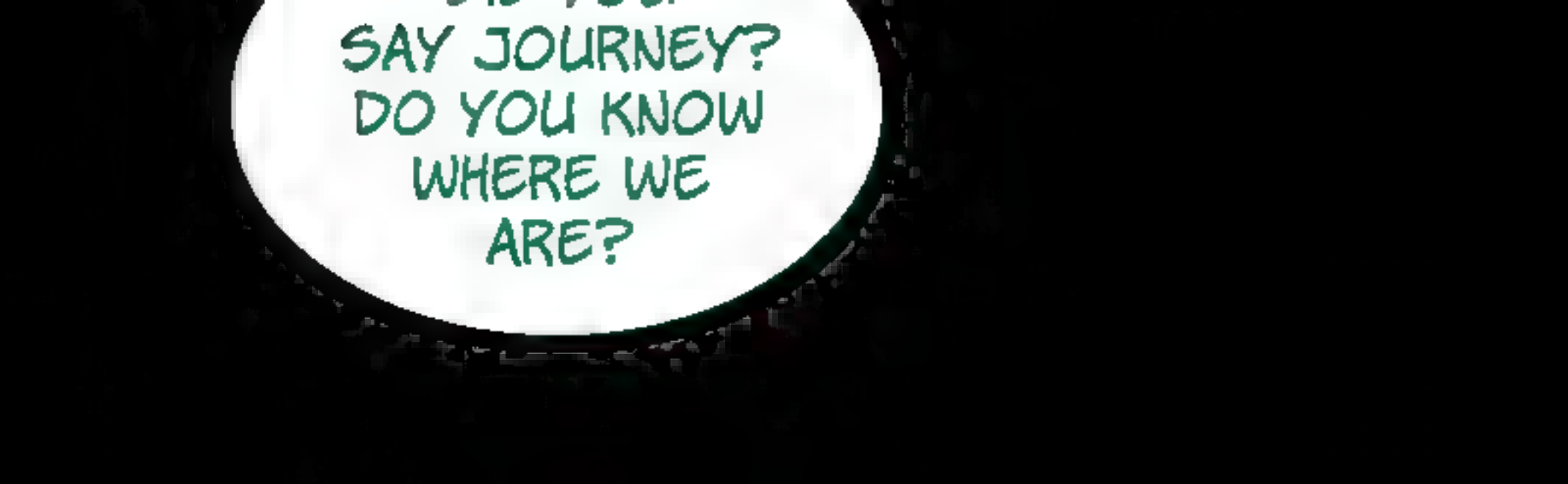
TO THE BEGINNING OF YOUR JOURNEY.

WHO ARE YOU?



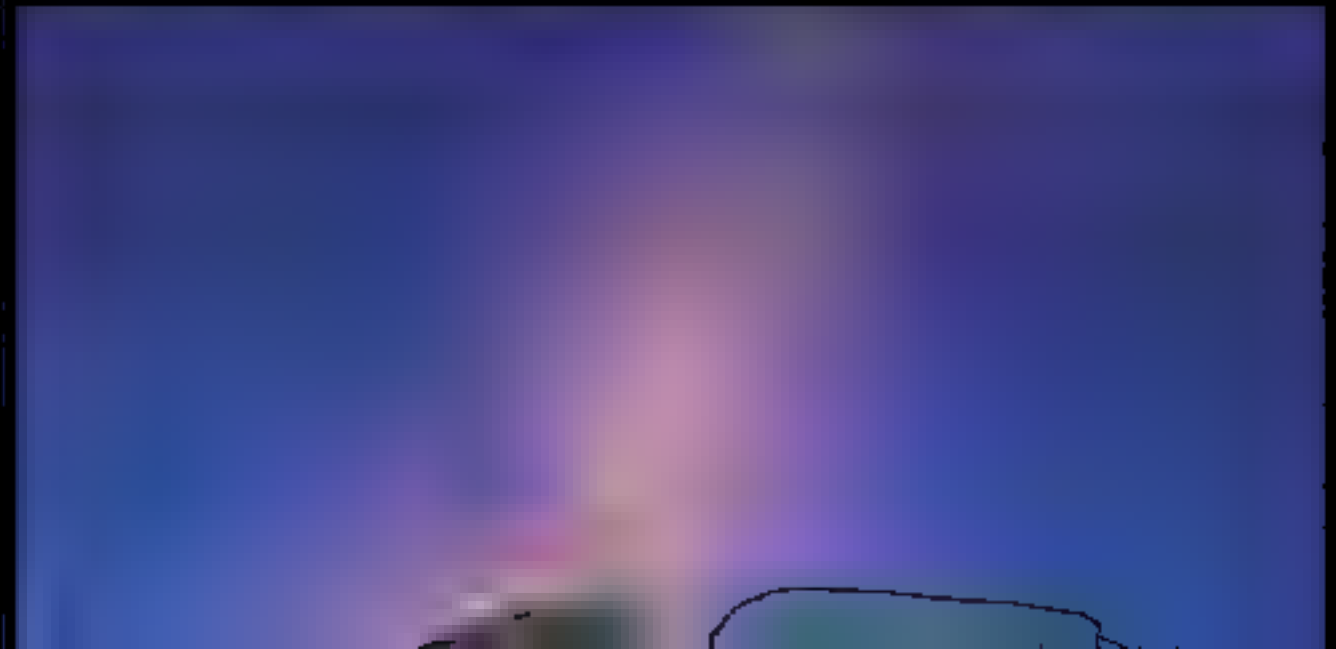
MASIOSARE.

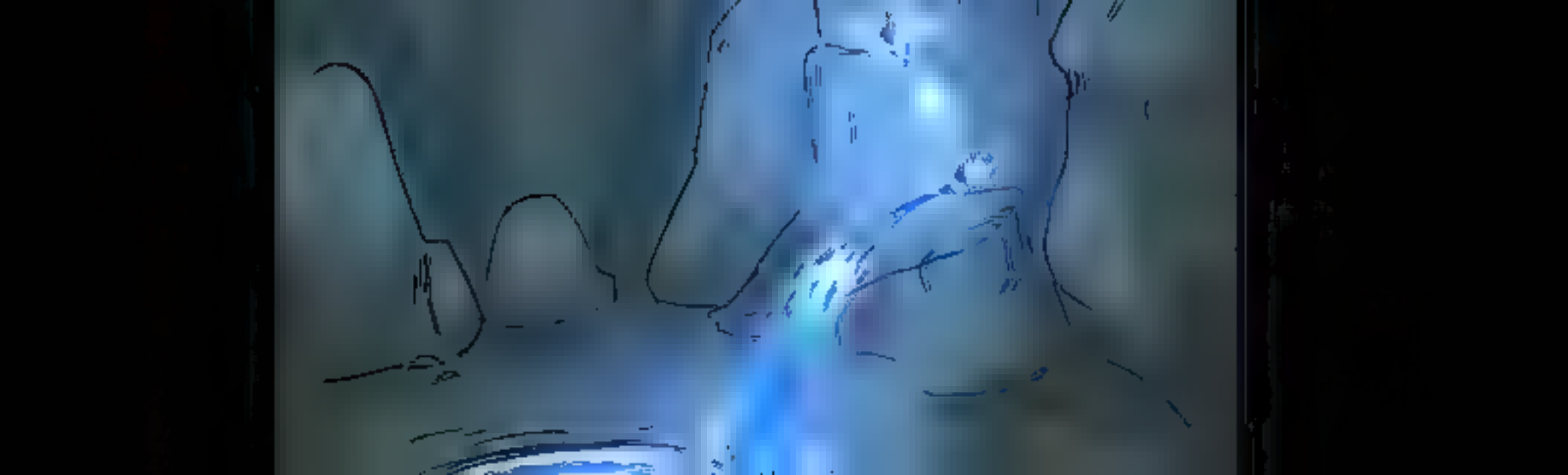
DID YOU
..."A STRANGE ENEMY"...?

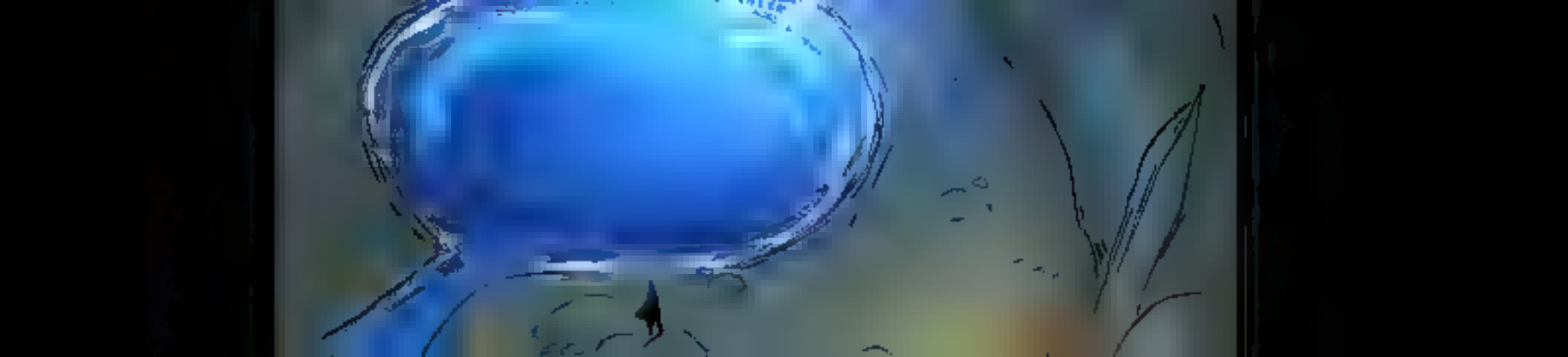

SAY JOURNEY?
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE WE
ARE?

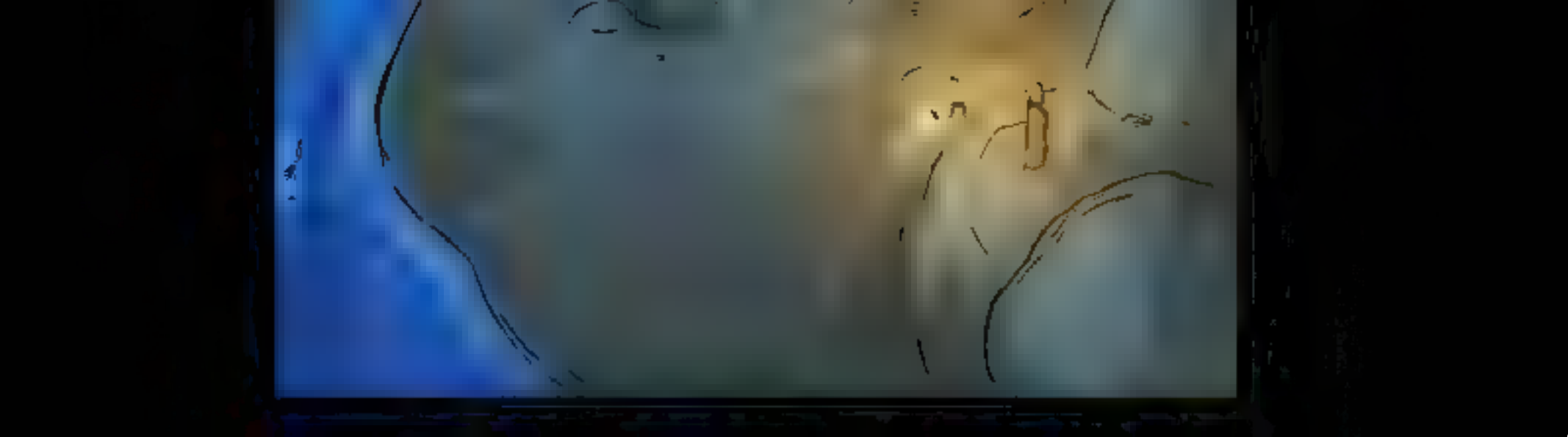
YOU'VE

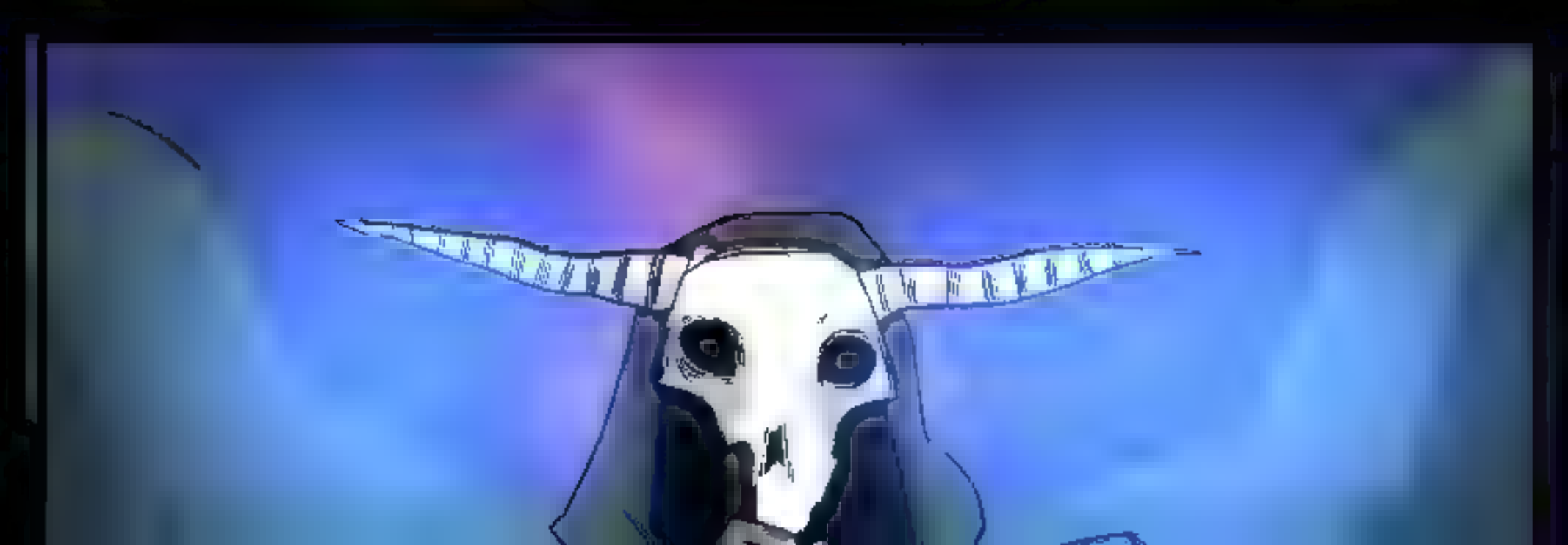
BEEN CHOSEN
TO CONQUER THIS
WORLD WHERE
PAST AND FUTURE
FUSE.

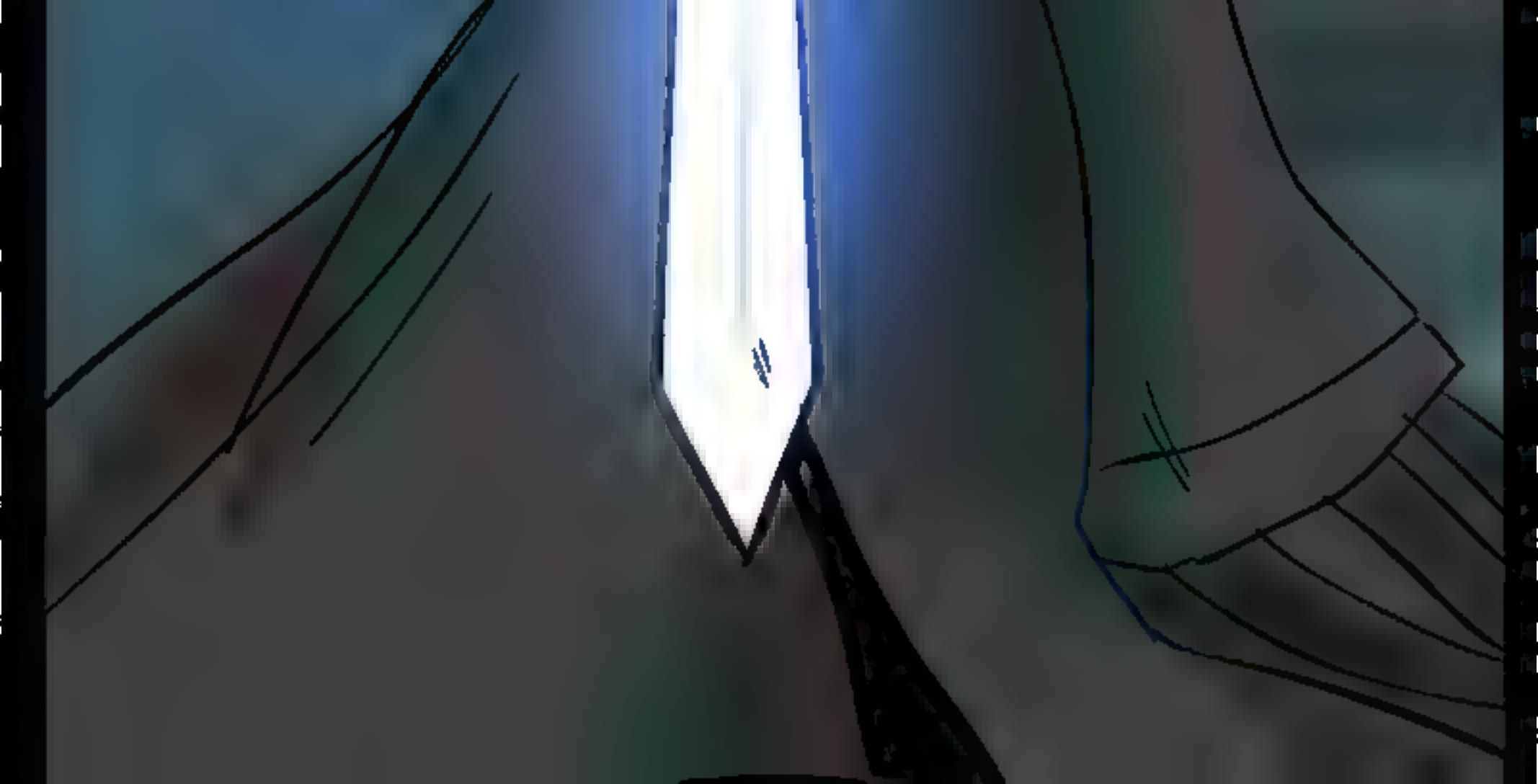


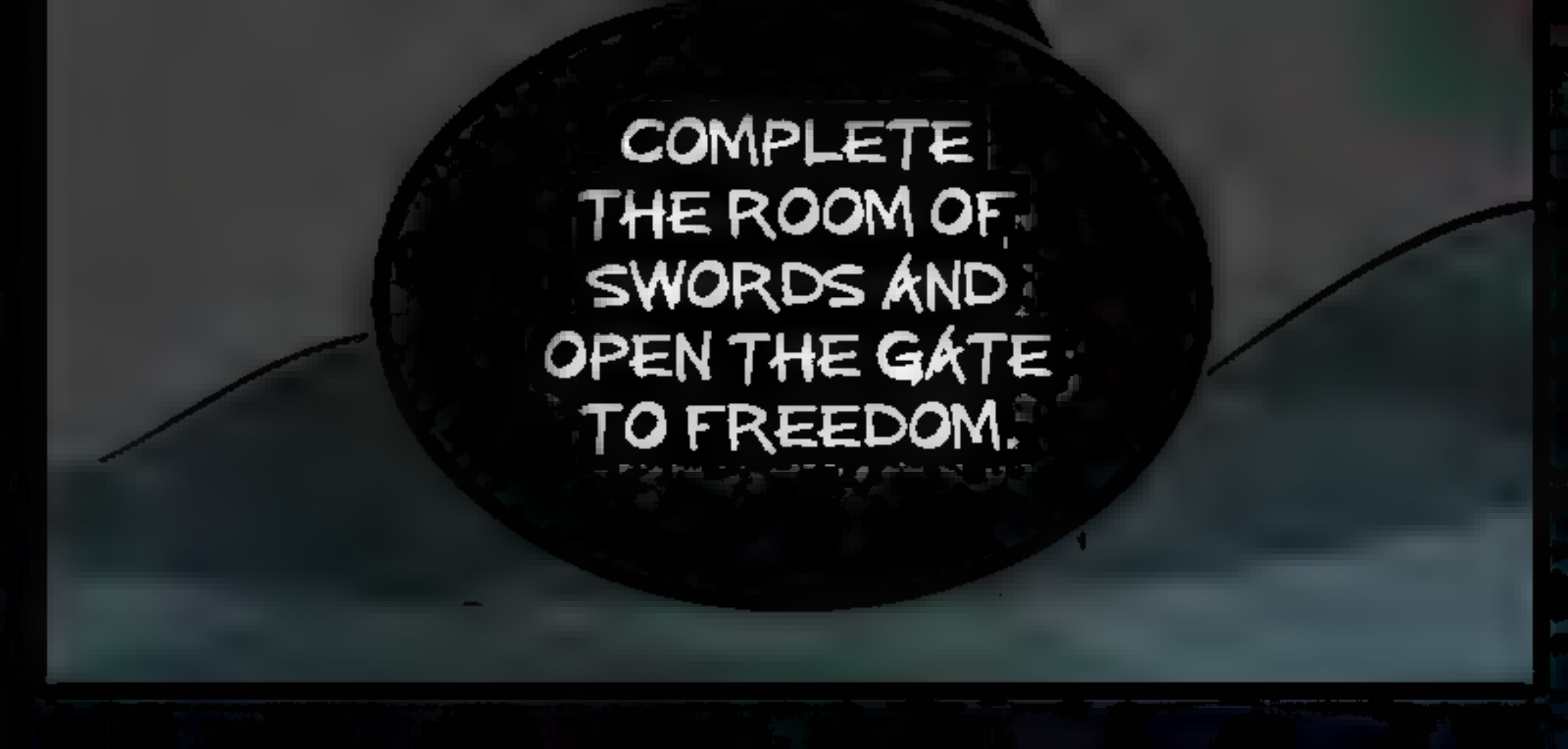


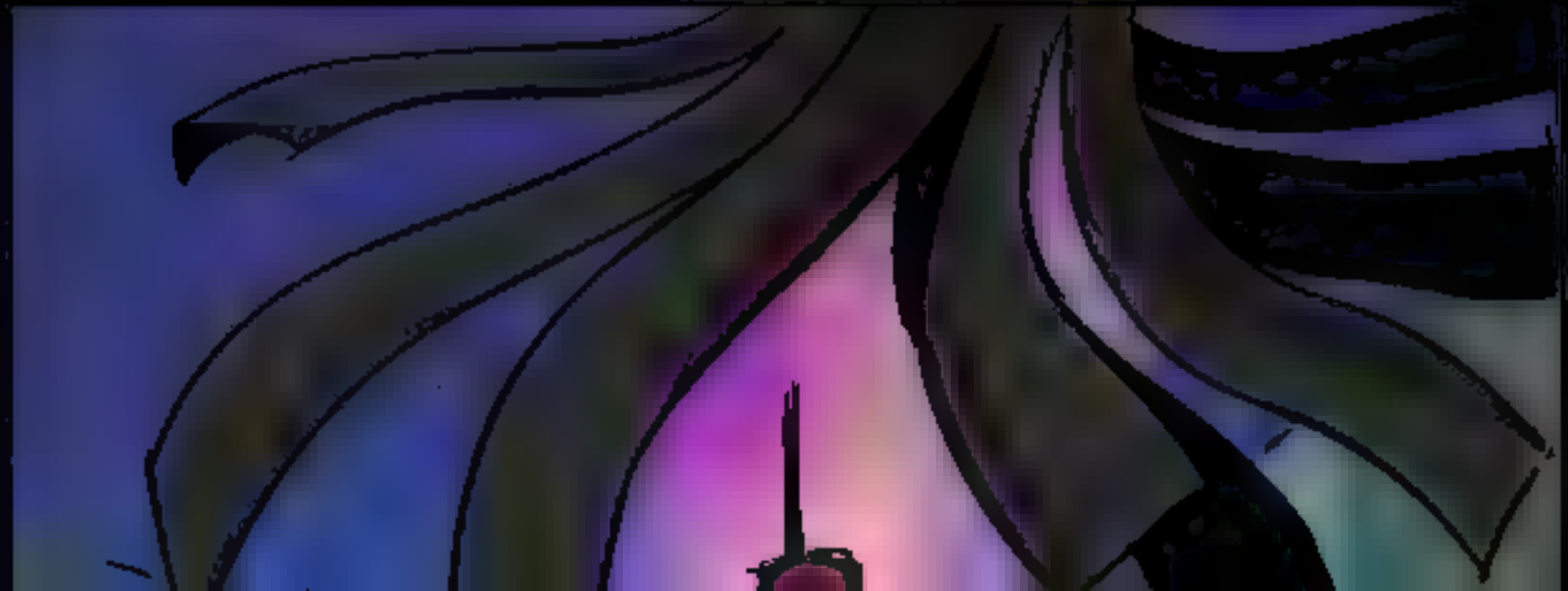




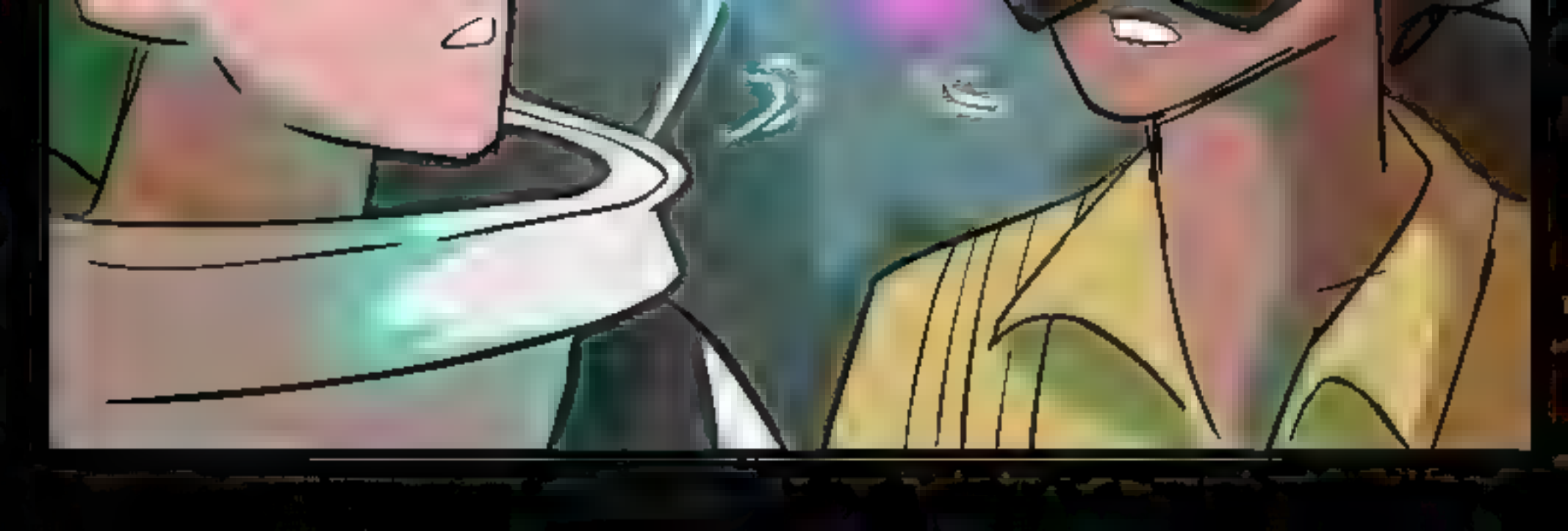


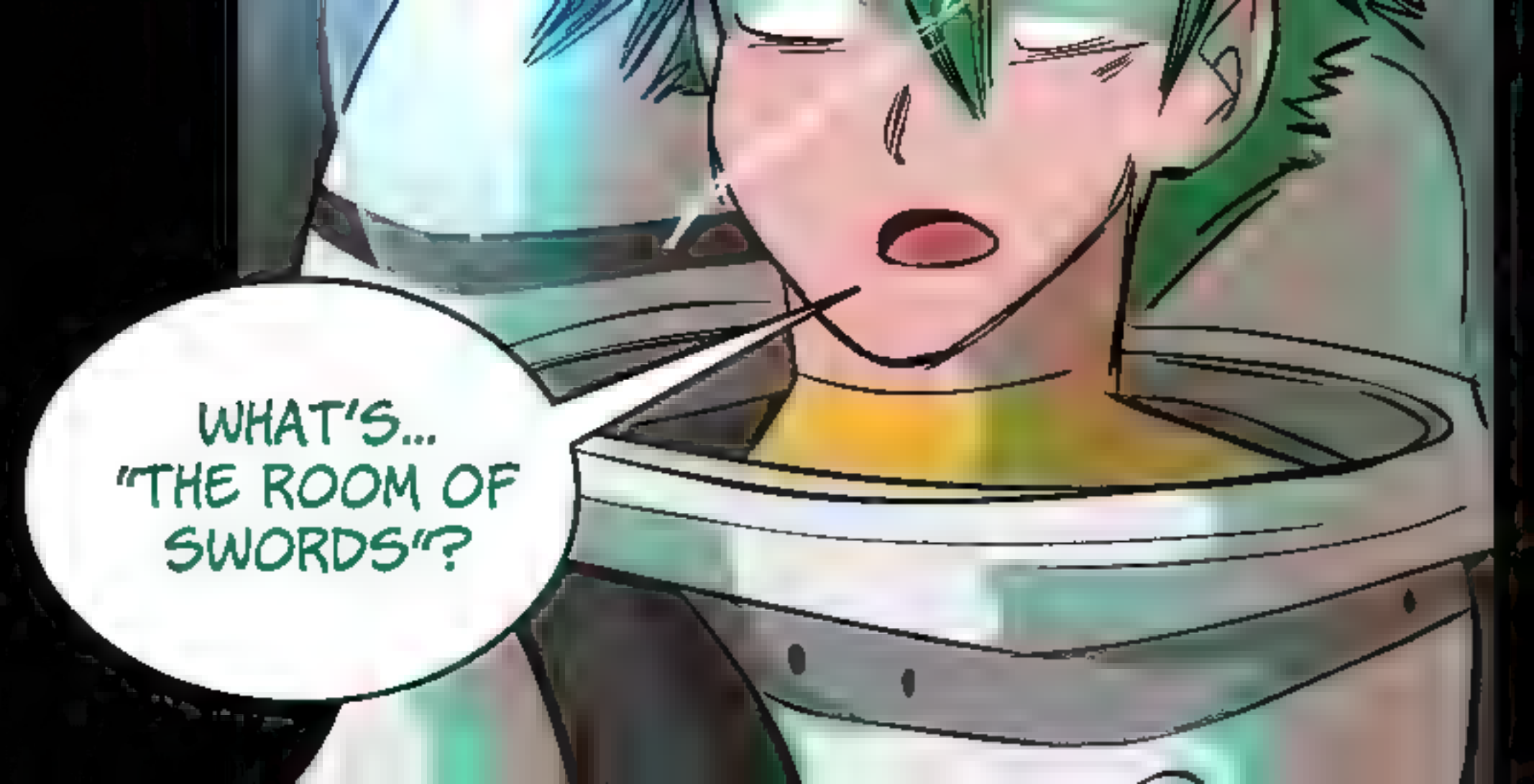


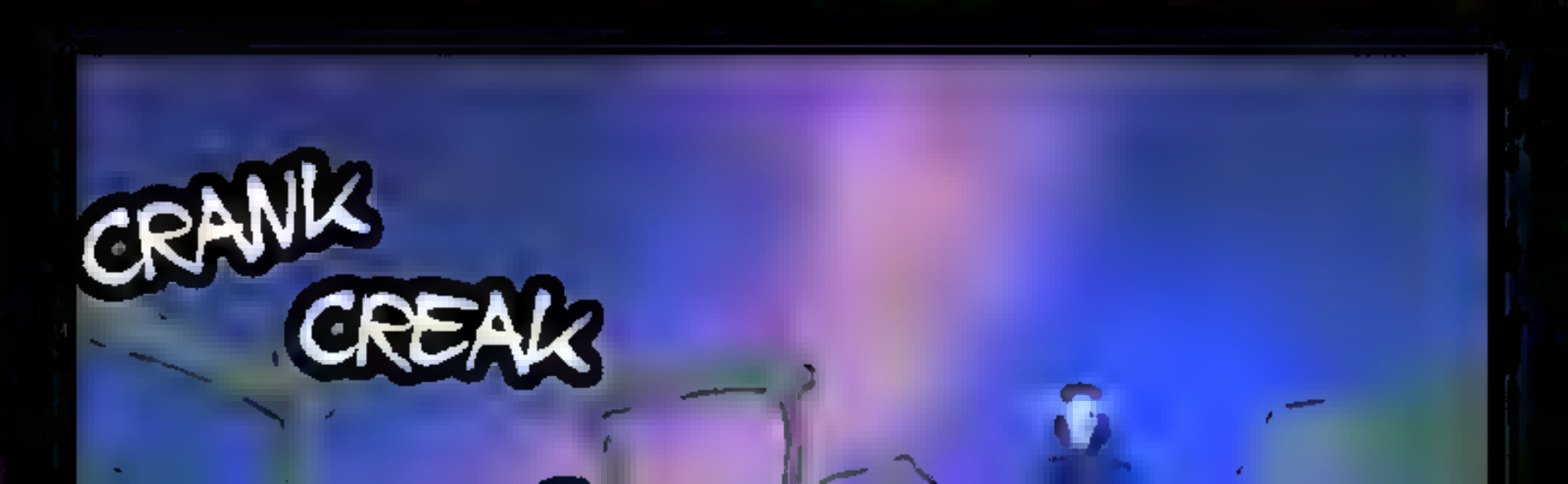

COMPLETE THE ROOM OF SWORDS AND OPEN THE GATE TO FREEDOM.



THUNK



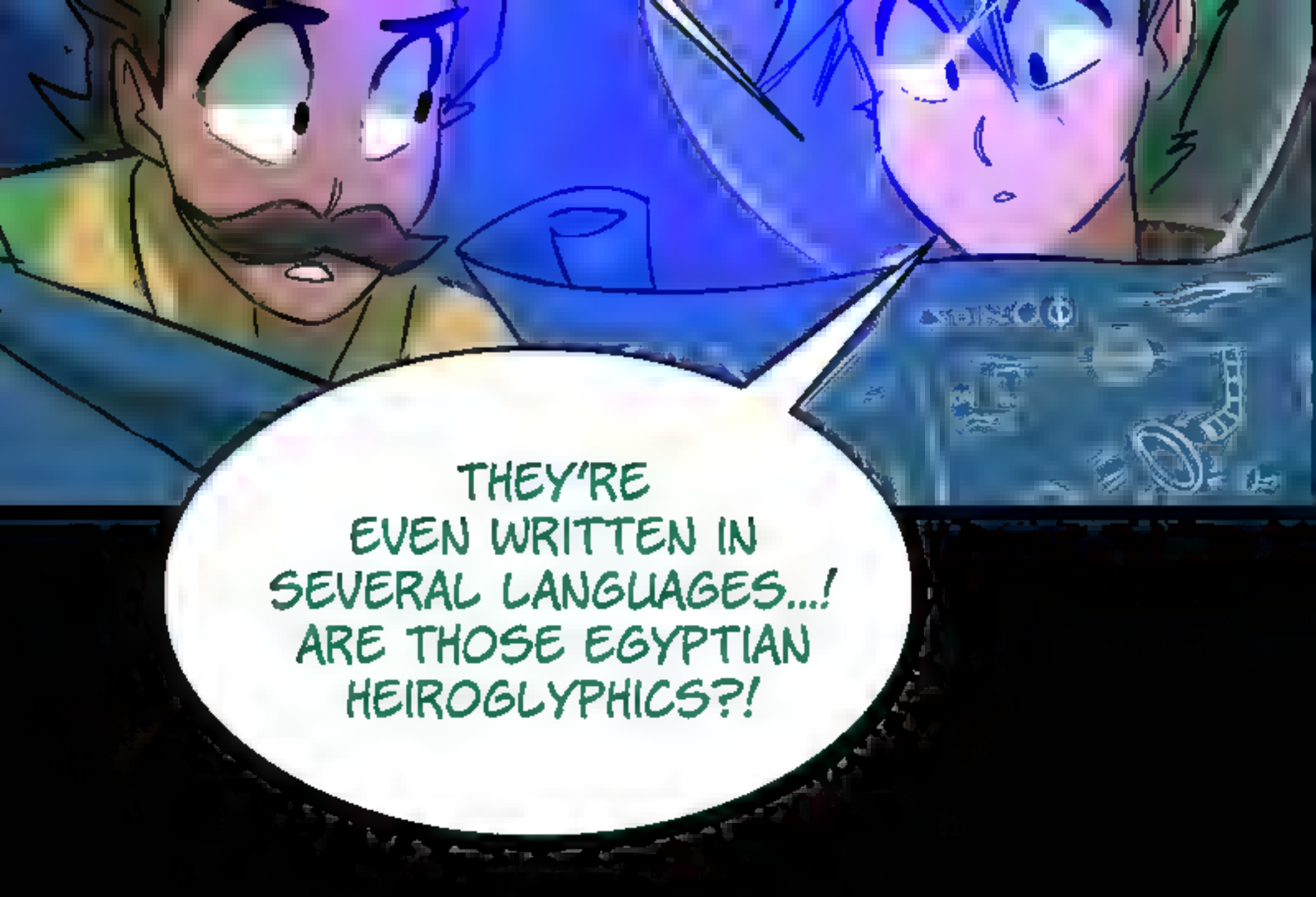

WHAT'S... "THE ROOM OF SWORDS"?

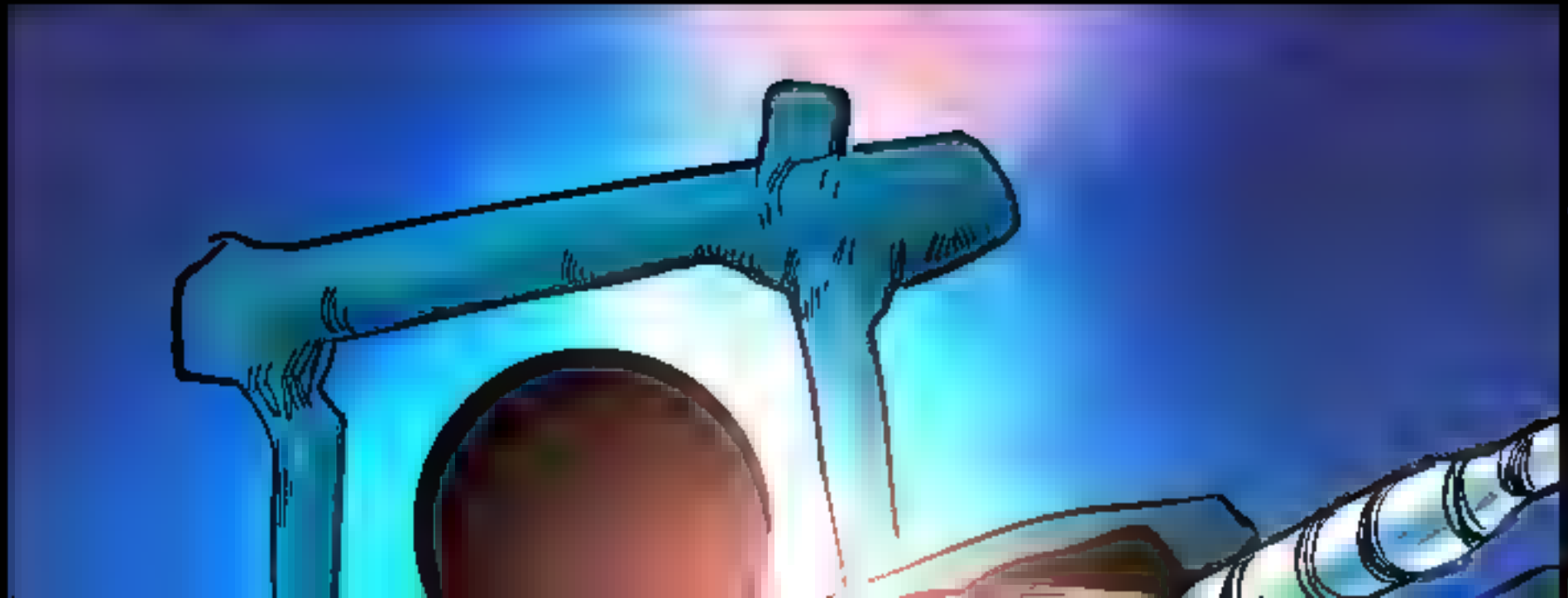

CRANK
CREAK

SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

THESE ARE...

BLUEPRINTS...
FOR A GIANT
MACHINE...

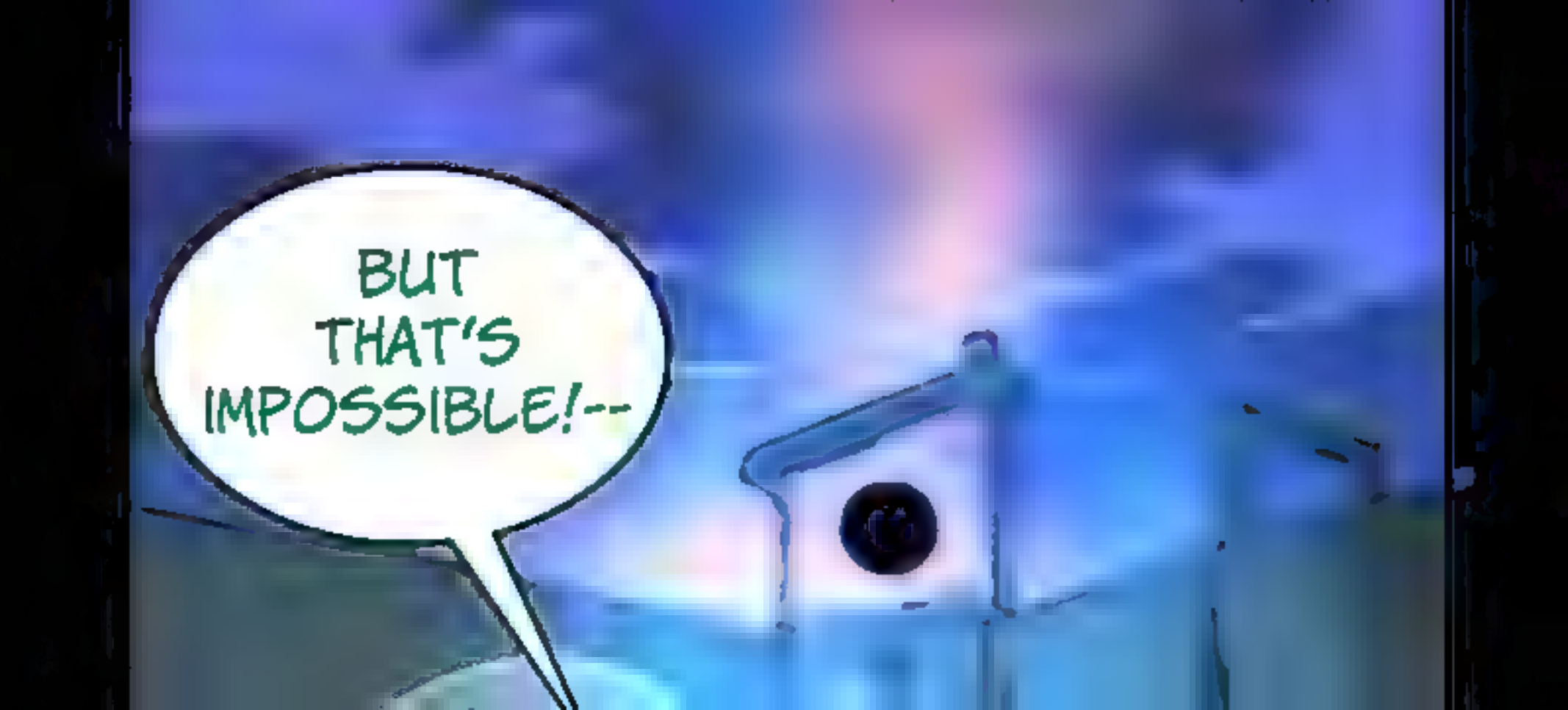

THEY'RE EVEN WRITTEN IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES...! ARE THOSE EGYPTIAN HEIROGLYPHICS?!



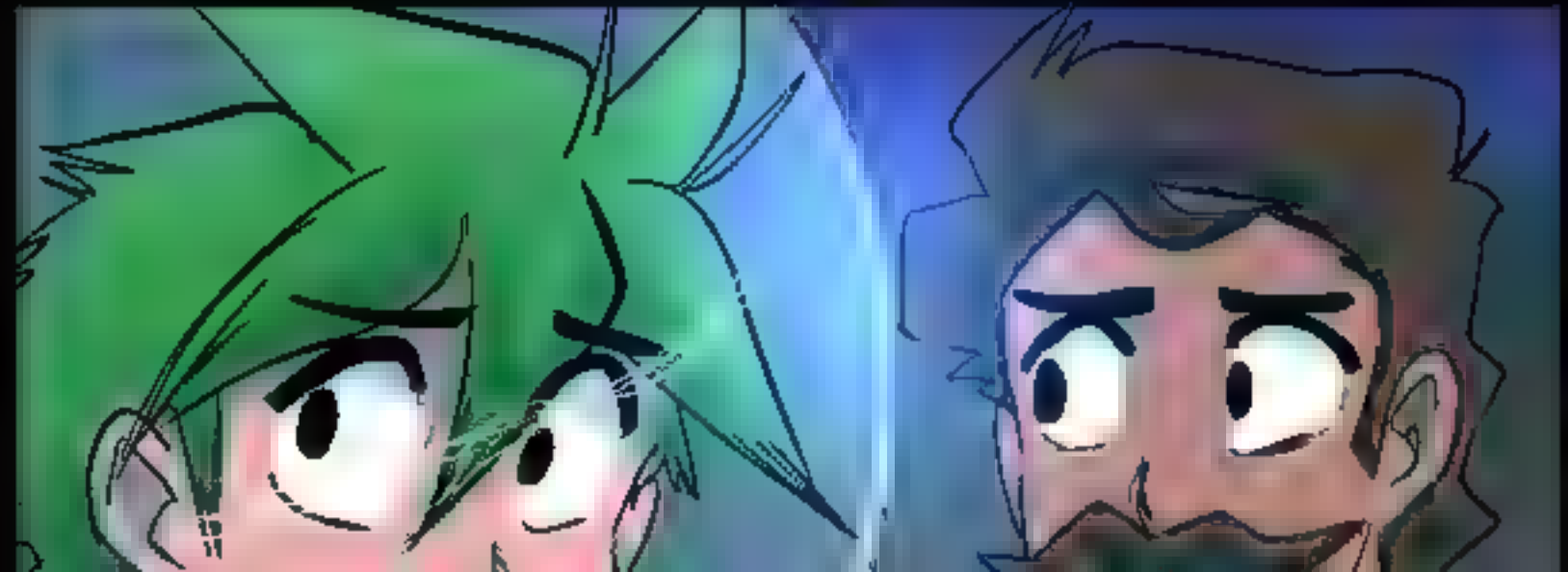
YOU HAVE 24 HOURS.

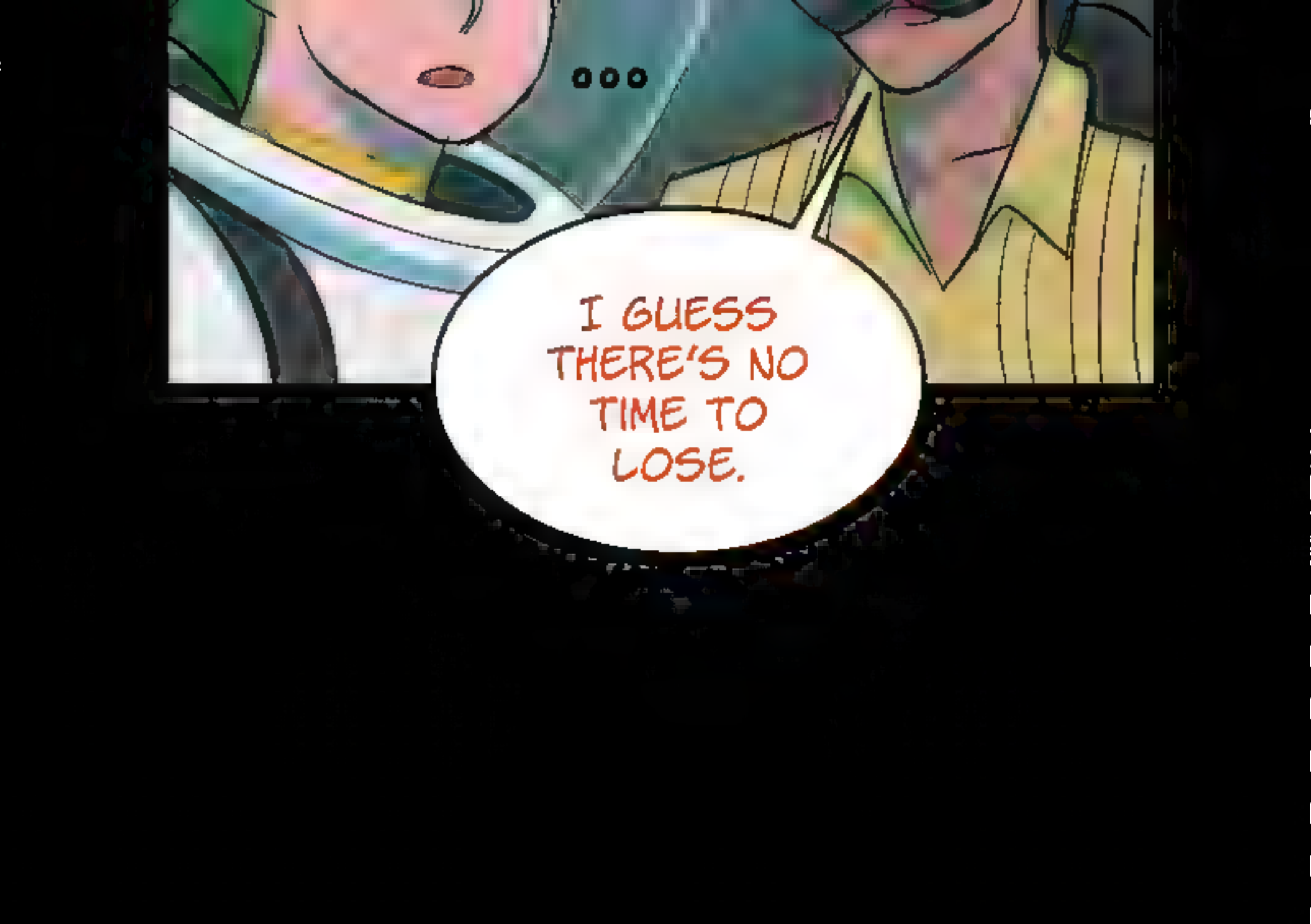
WHAT?!

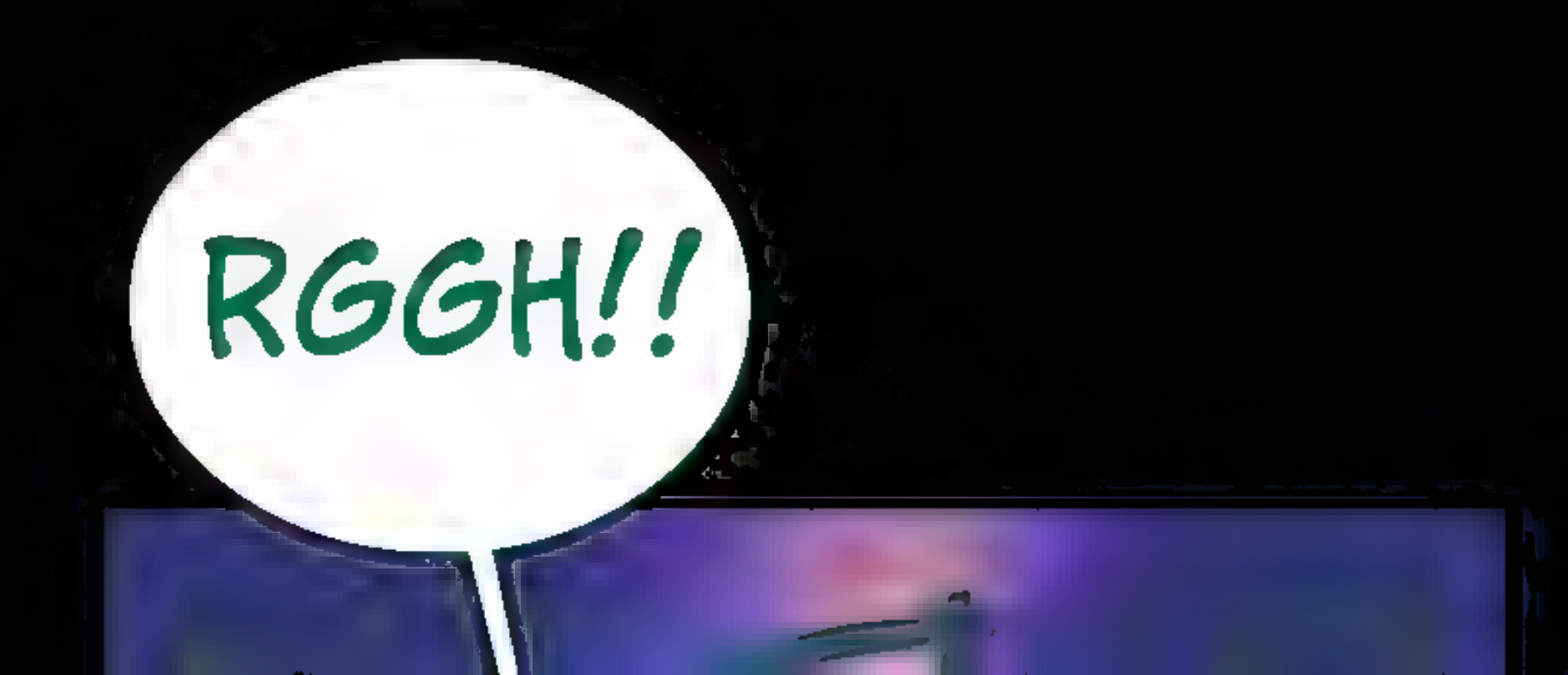
24 HOURS TO BUILD THIS?!


BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!--

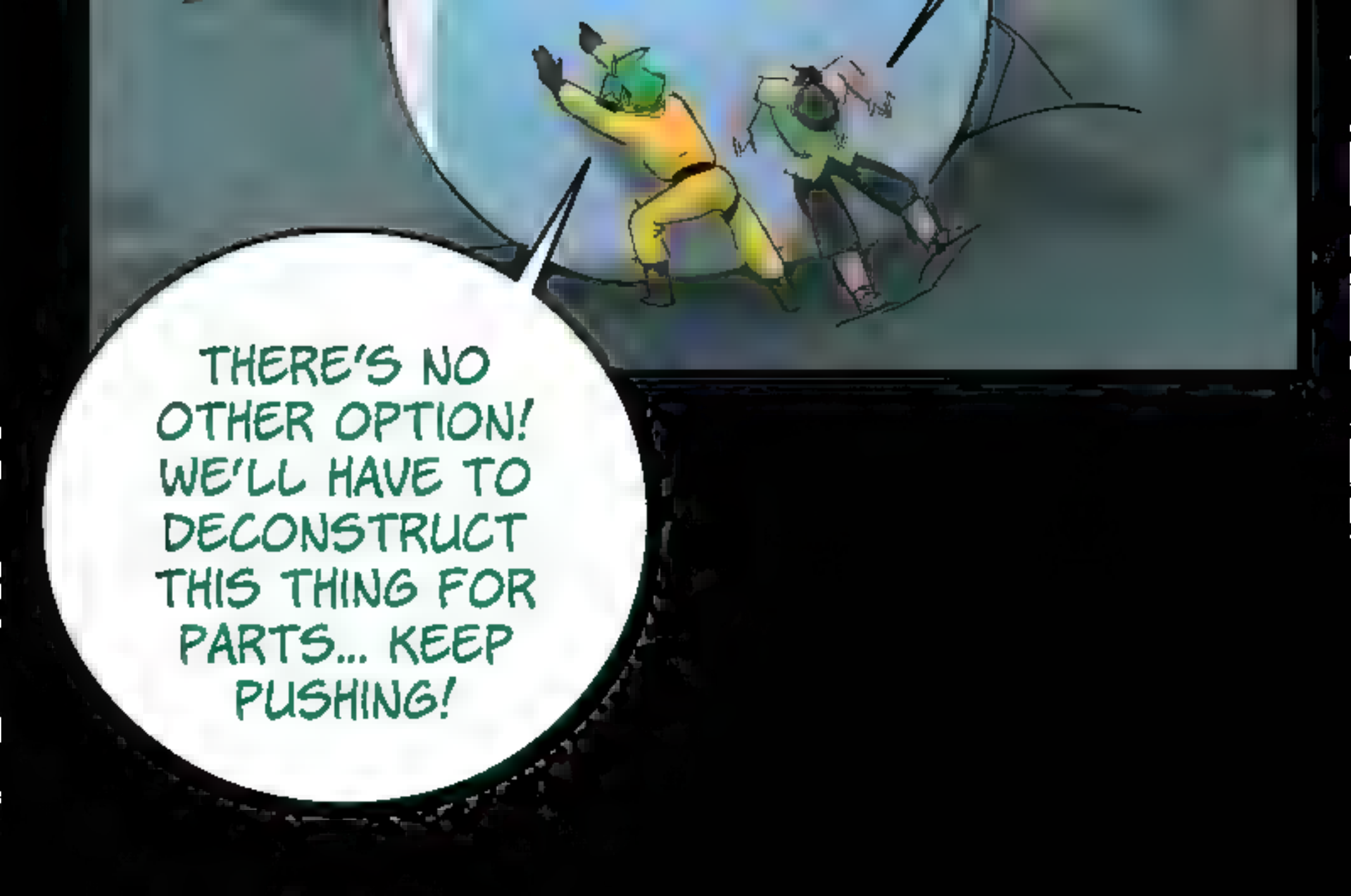
...HE DISAPPEARED...

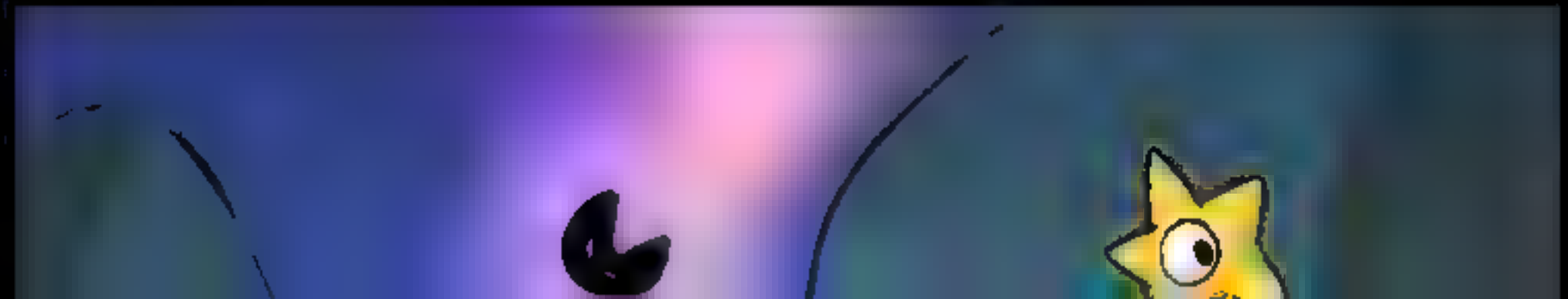


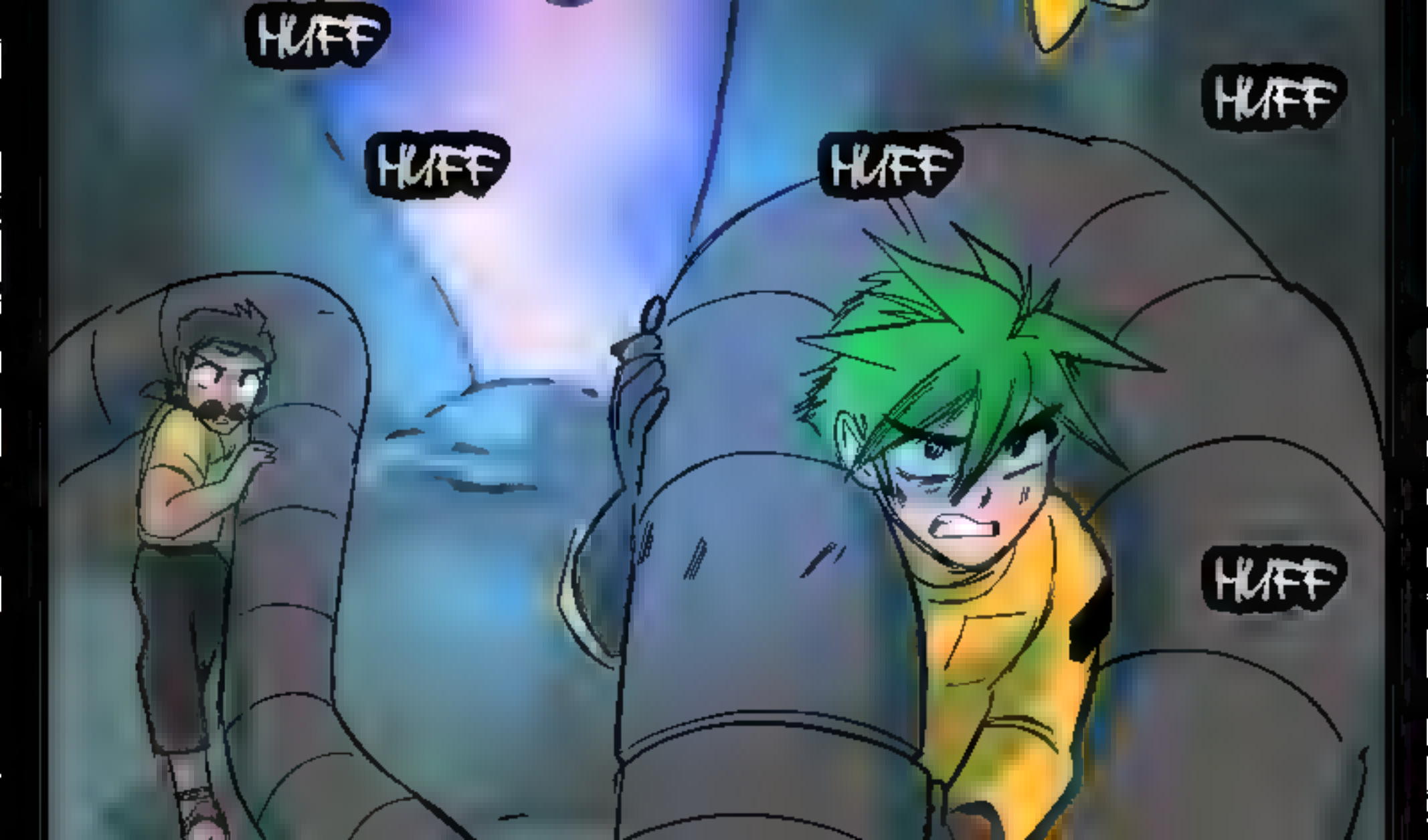

I GUESS THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.


RGGH!!

GGH!!
ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS, AMIGO?


THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION! WE'LL HAVE TO DECONSTRUCT THIS THING FOR PARTS... KEEP PUSHING!

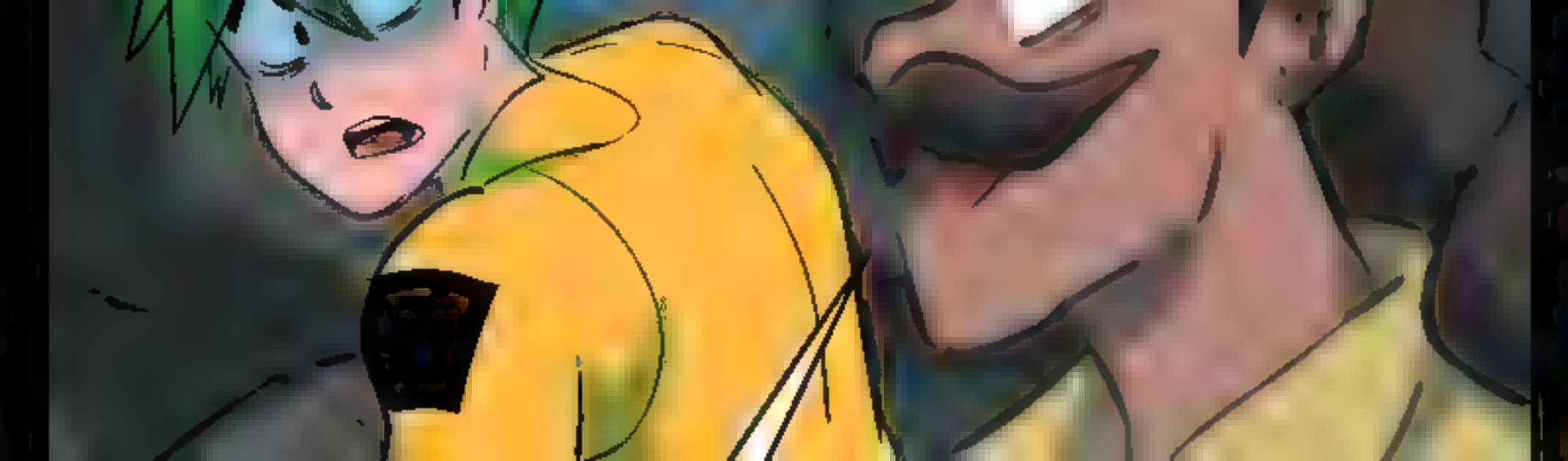


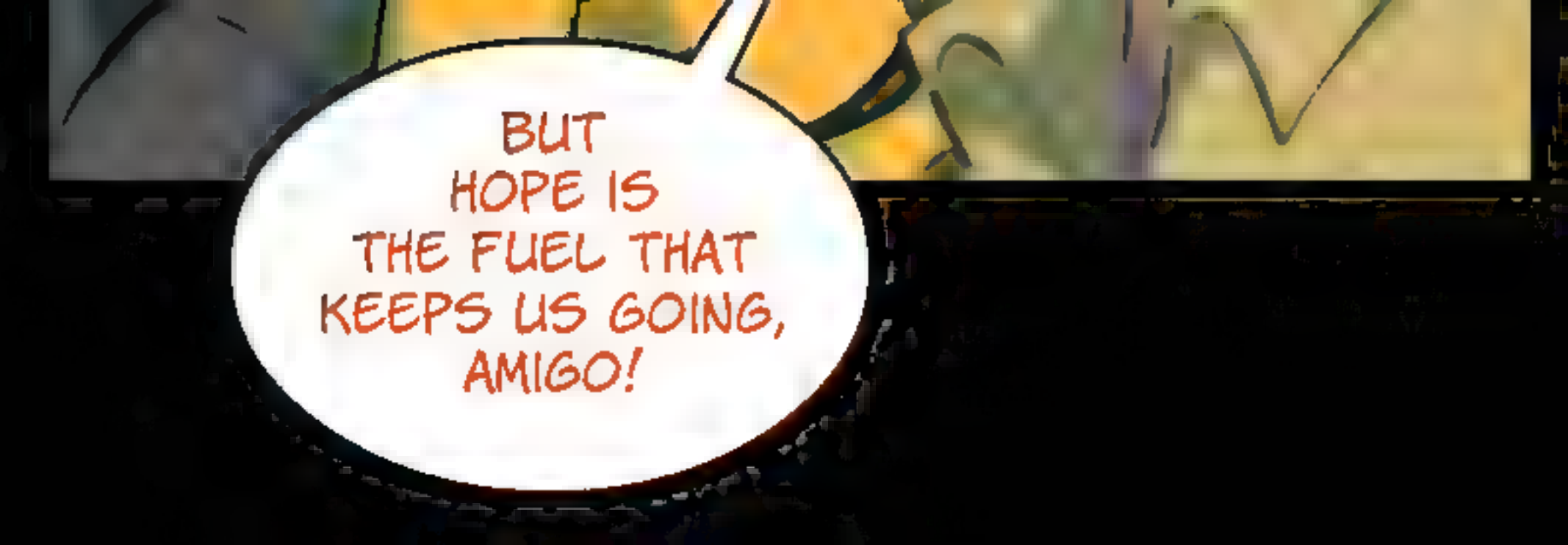

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

RRRIP
CLINK
CRICK

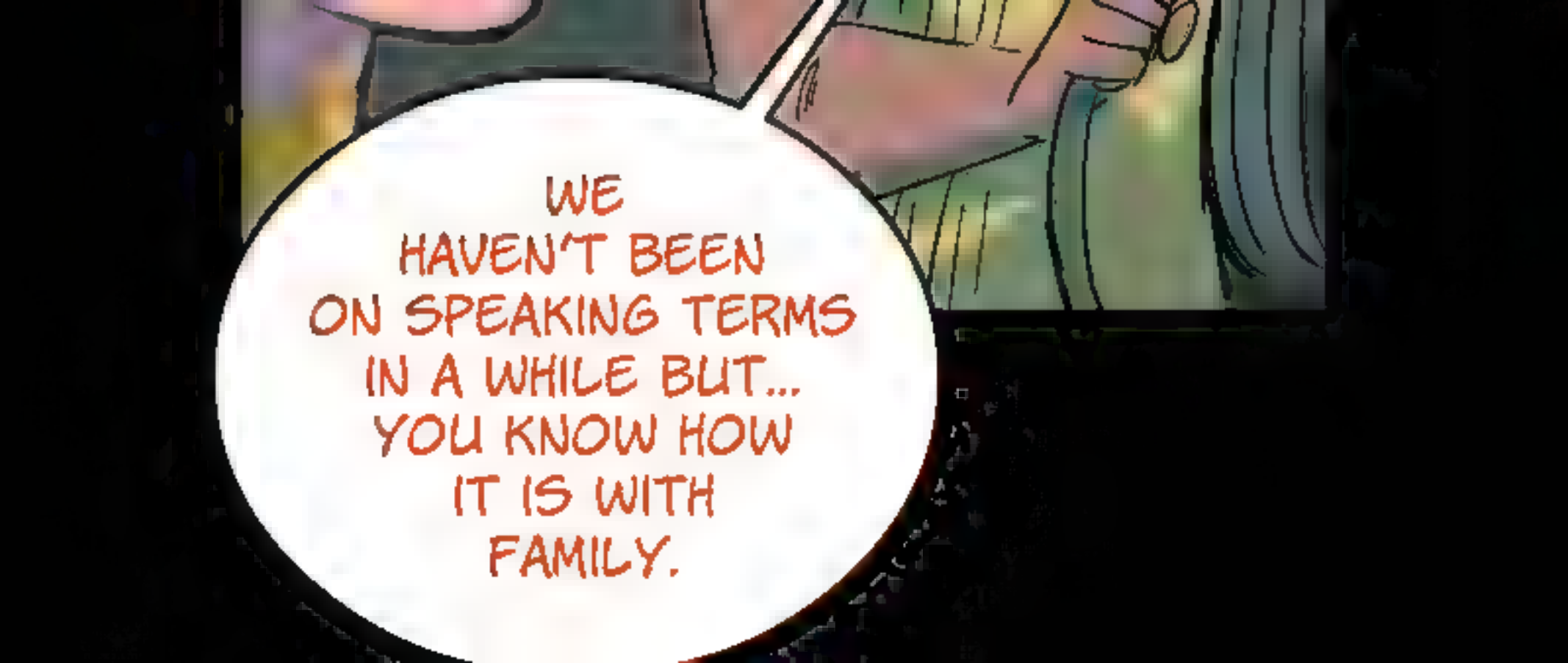
WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU'LL DO WHEN YOU GET HOME, AMIGO?

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH POINT IN THINKING ABOUT IT.

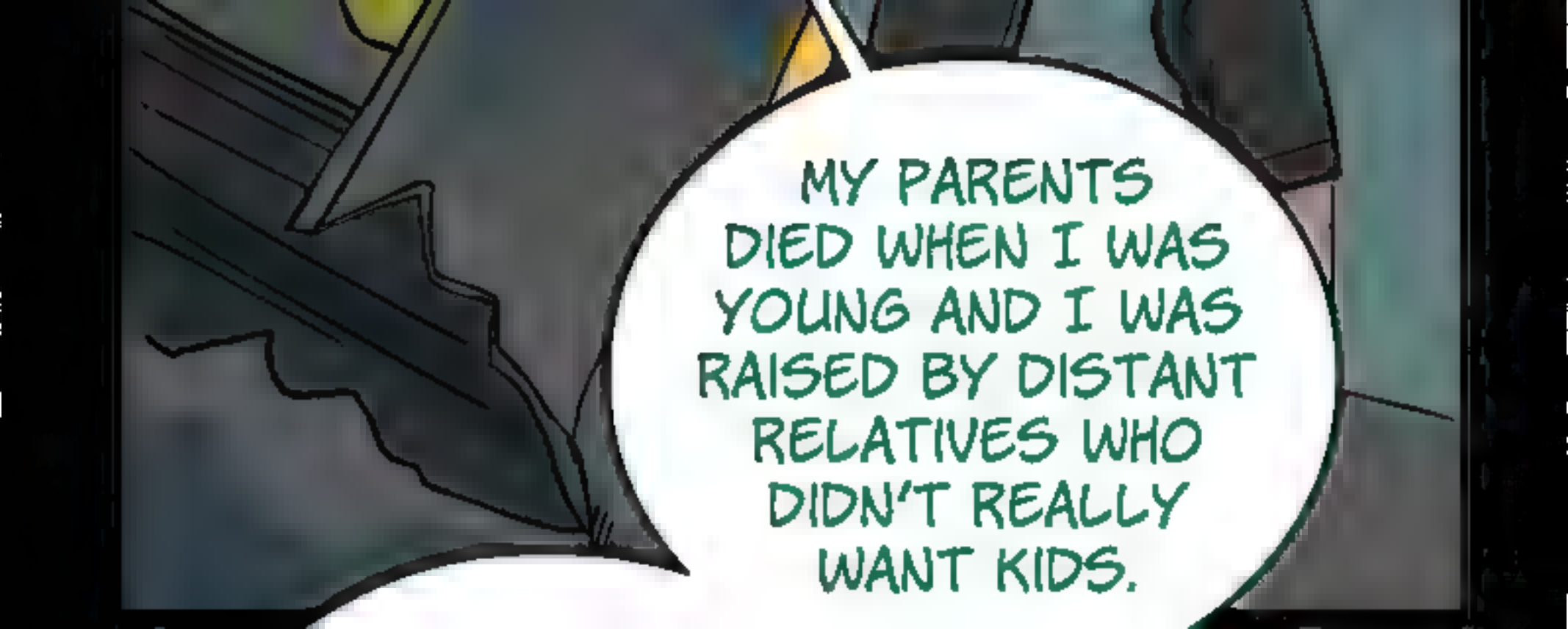



BUT
HOPE IS
THE FUEL THAT
KEEPS US GOING,
AMIGO!

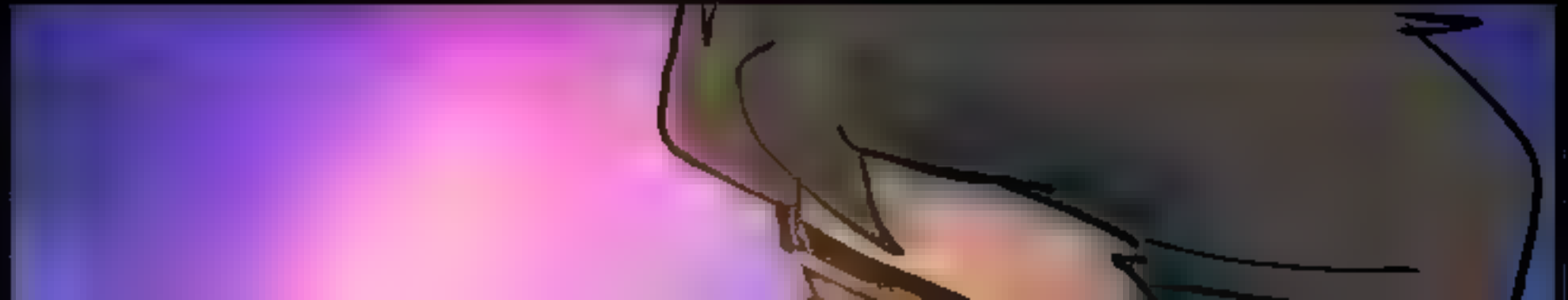
ME? I WILL GIVE MY SON A BIG HUG.


WE HAVEN'T BEEN ON SPEAKING TERMS IN A WHILE BUT... YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH FAMILY.

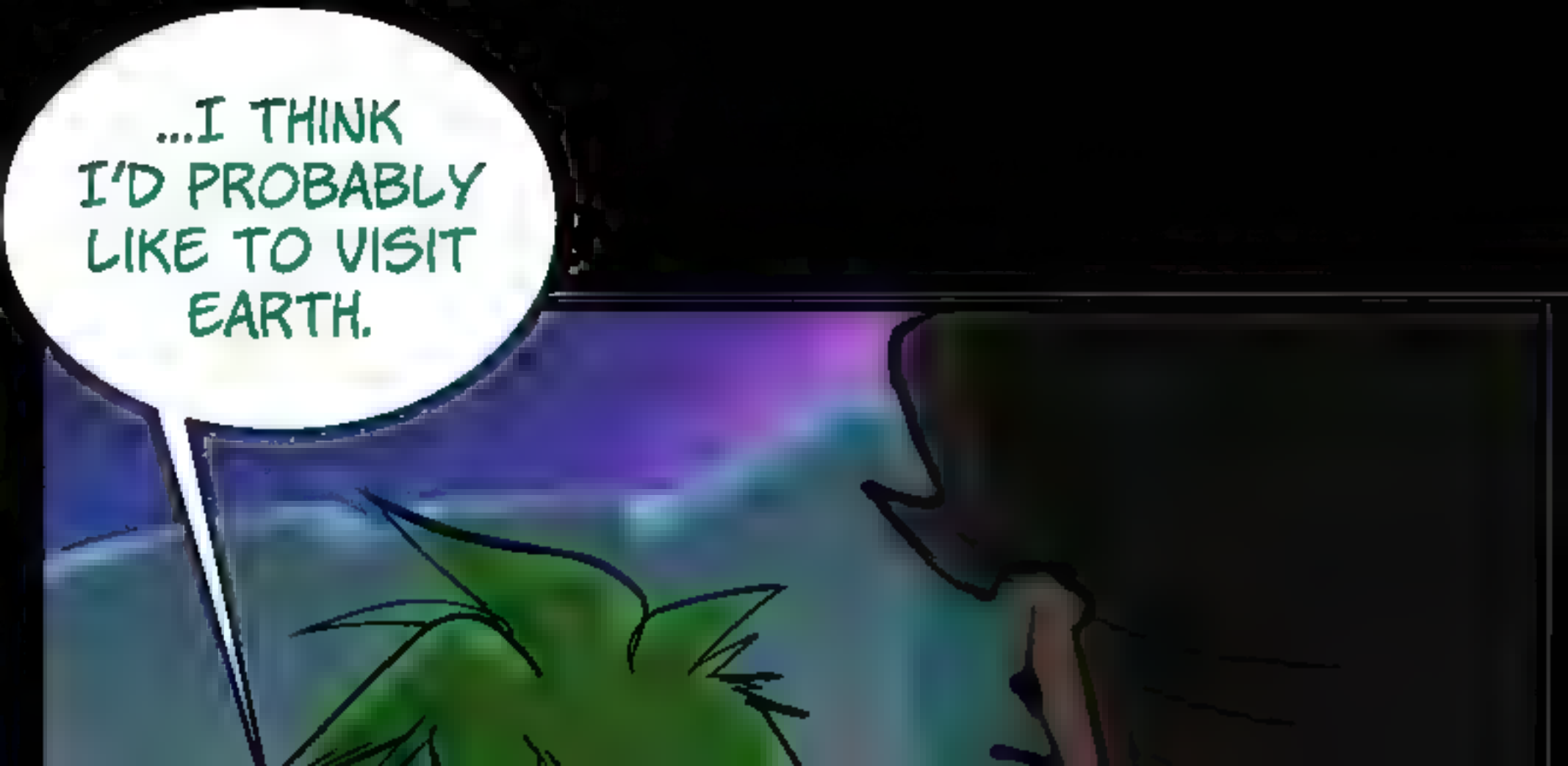
NOT REALLY... I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH OF A FAMILY.


MY PARENTS DIED WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND I WAS RAISED BY DISTANT RELATIVES WHO DIDN'T REALLY WANT KIDS.

I MOVED OUT WHEN I WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE SPACE ACADEMY, AND WE HAVEN'T KEPT IN TOUCH.

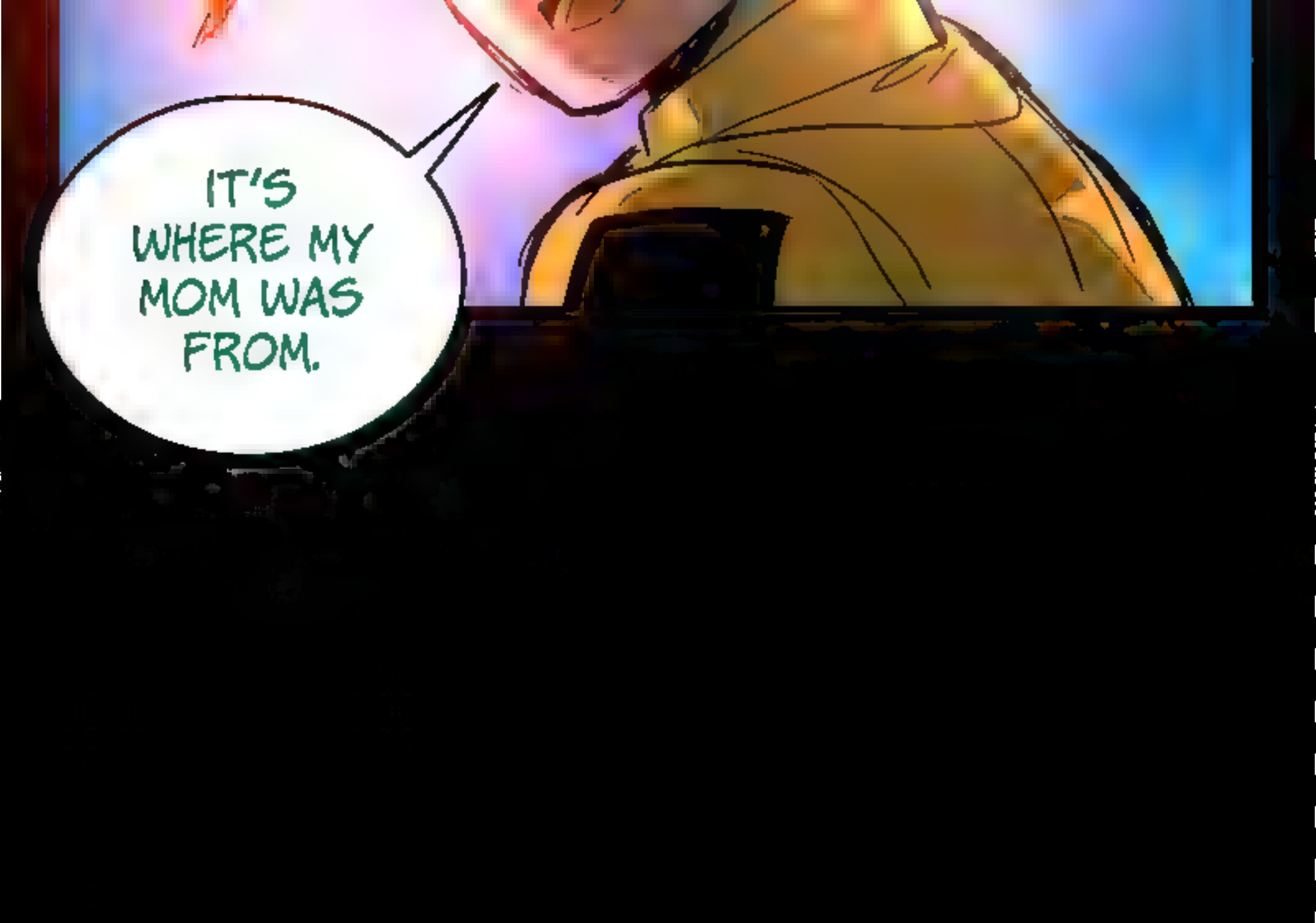


AH...
SORRY,
AMIGO.

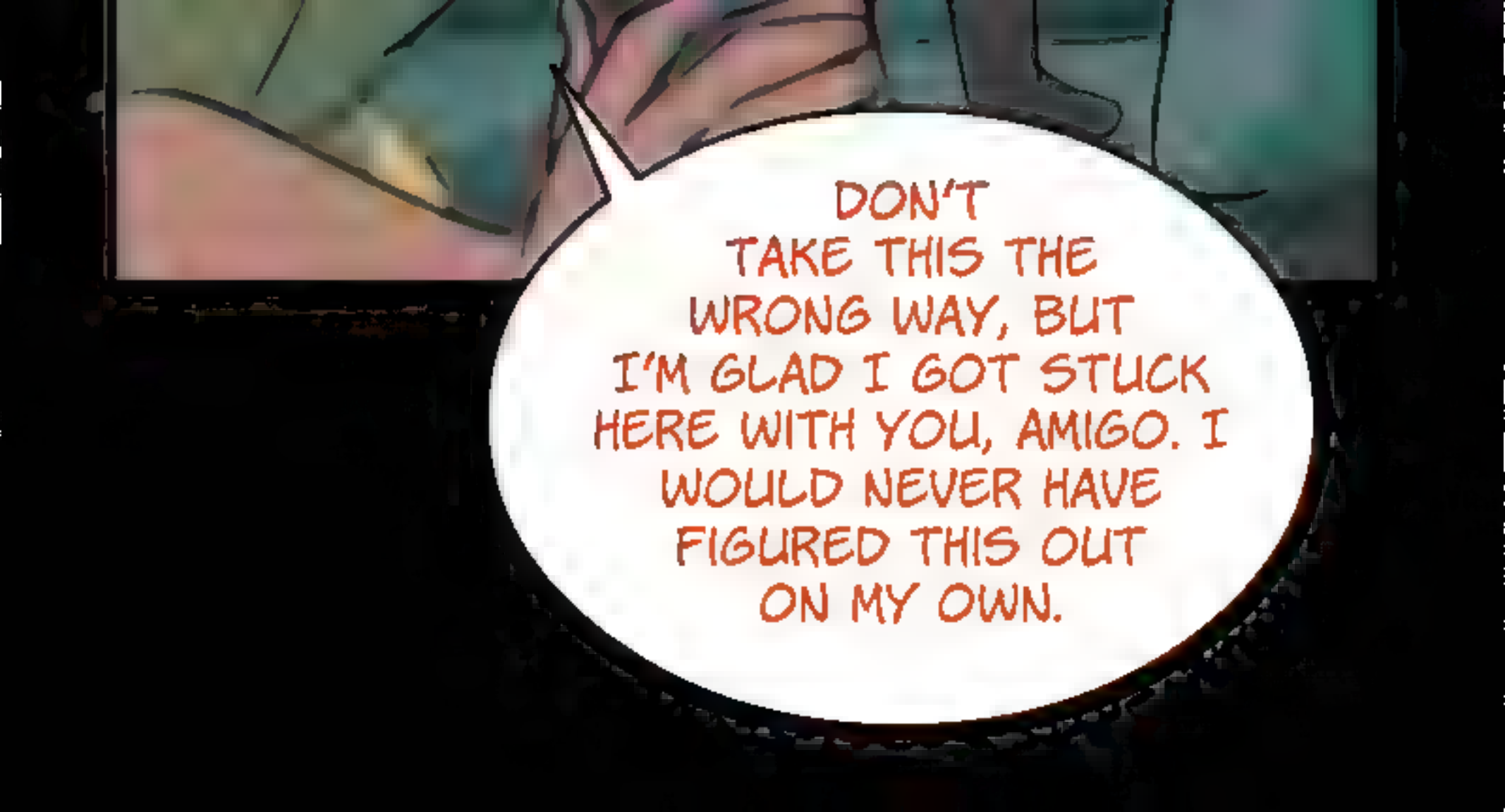

...I THINK I'D PROBABLY LIKE TO VISIT EARTH.

EY?!

WHEN I GET HOME.

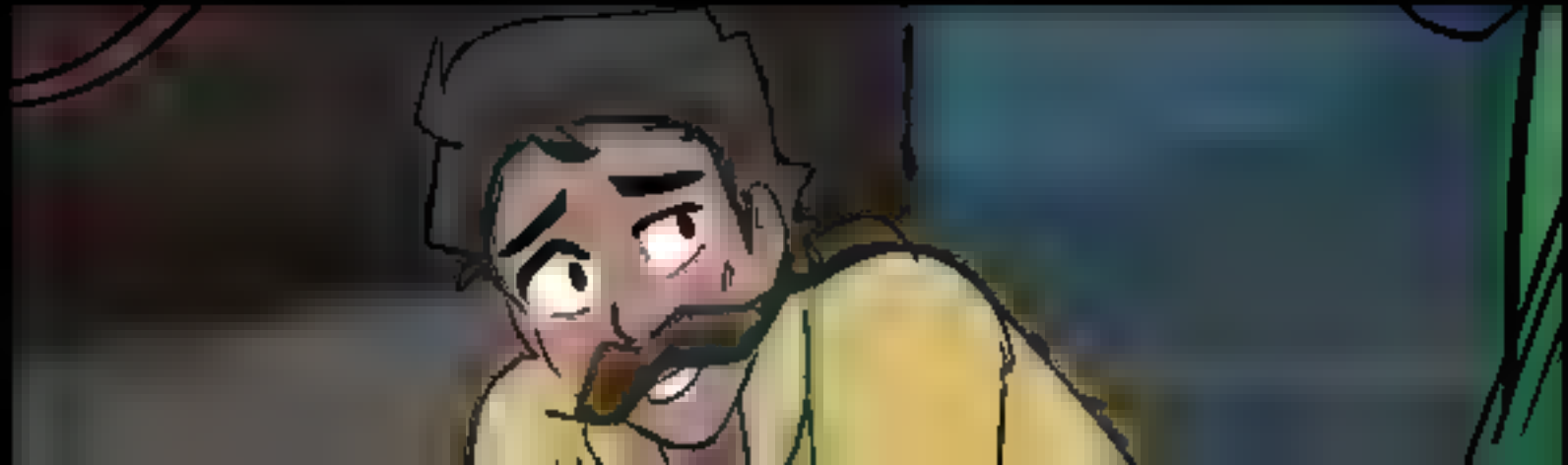

IT'S WHERE MY MOM WAS FROM.

TAP
BUP
DZZT


DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT I'M GLAD I GOT STUCK HERE WITH YOU, AMIGO. I WOULD NEVER HAVE FIGURED THIS OUT ON MY OWN.

THANKS, I-- DON?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE HAVE TO KEEP WORKING!

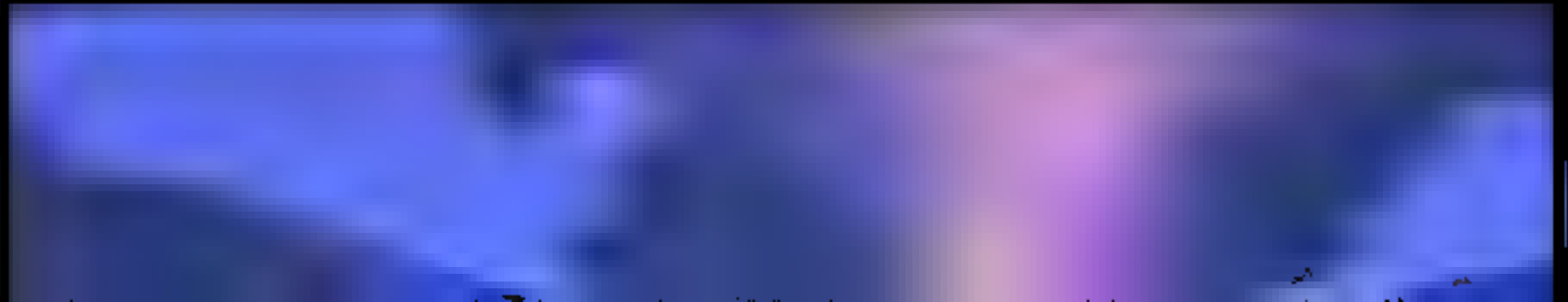


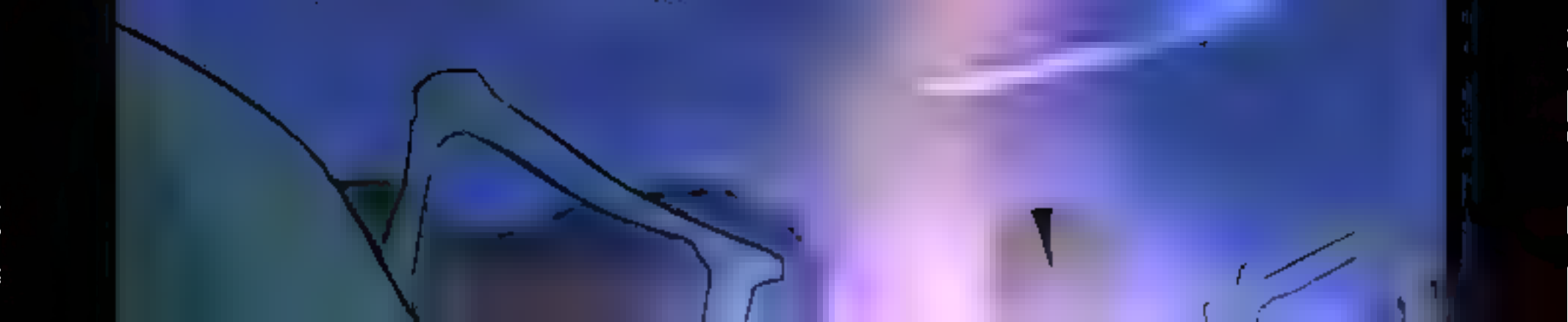
JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT... I'M NOT AS YOUNG AS YOU! JAJA...

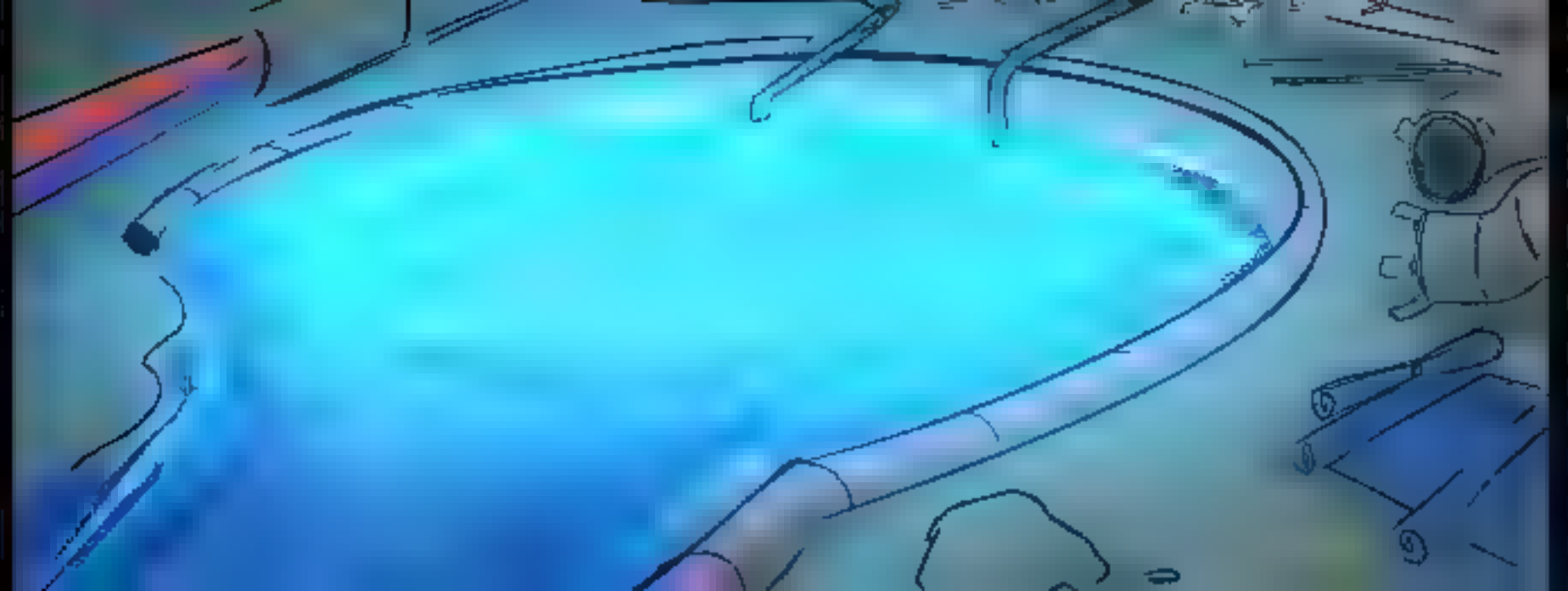
ZZZ
THOk
THOk

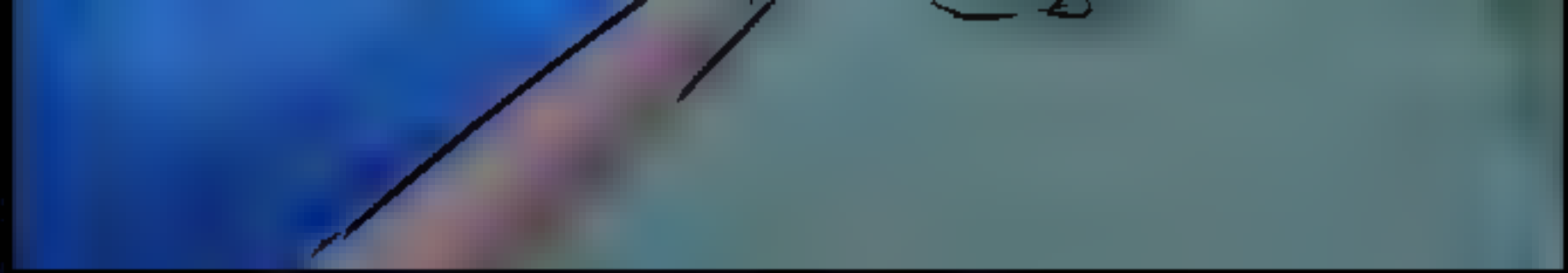
THOK
DAMN IT...!

CRUNCH
RRERRR







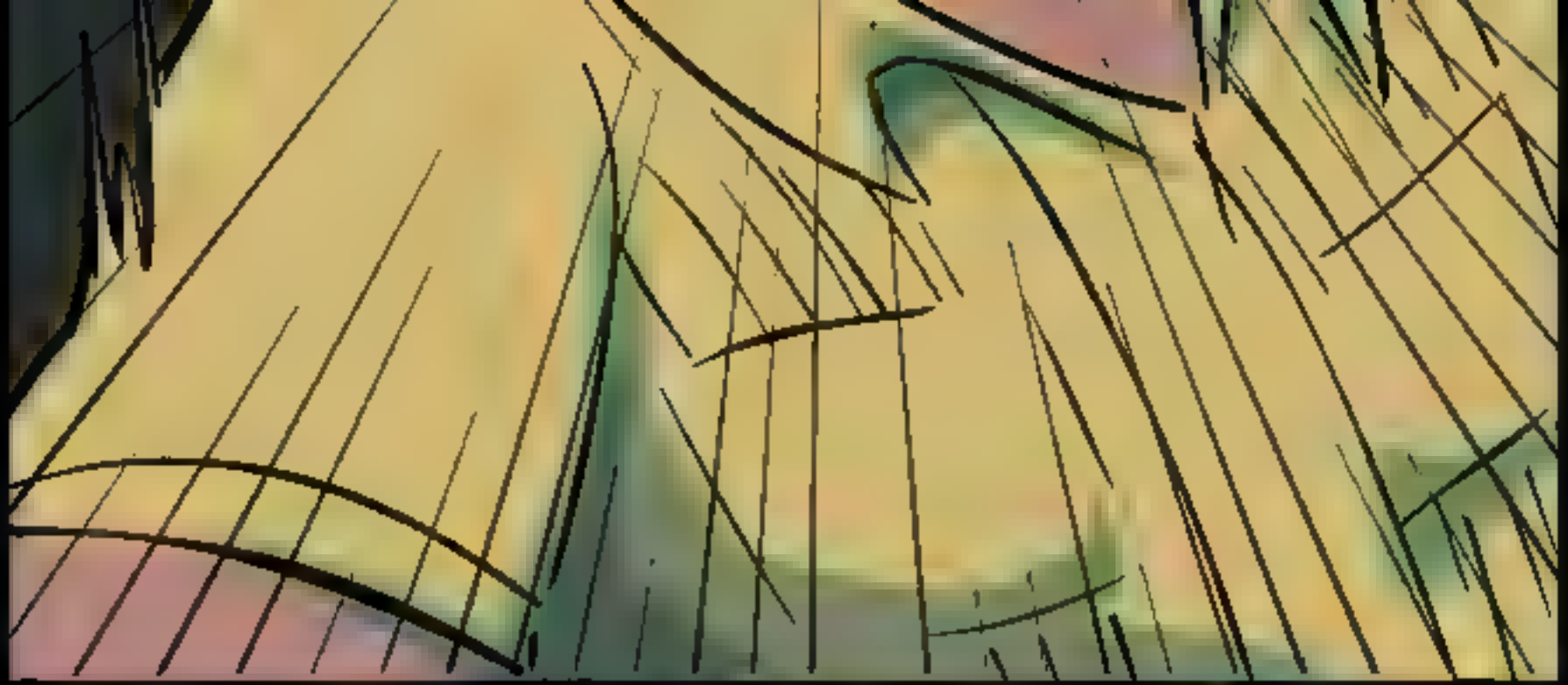


02222
CRICK
VRRRRRR

CRASH

CNET

SNORT?!



GYRUS!
L-LO SIENTO, I

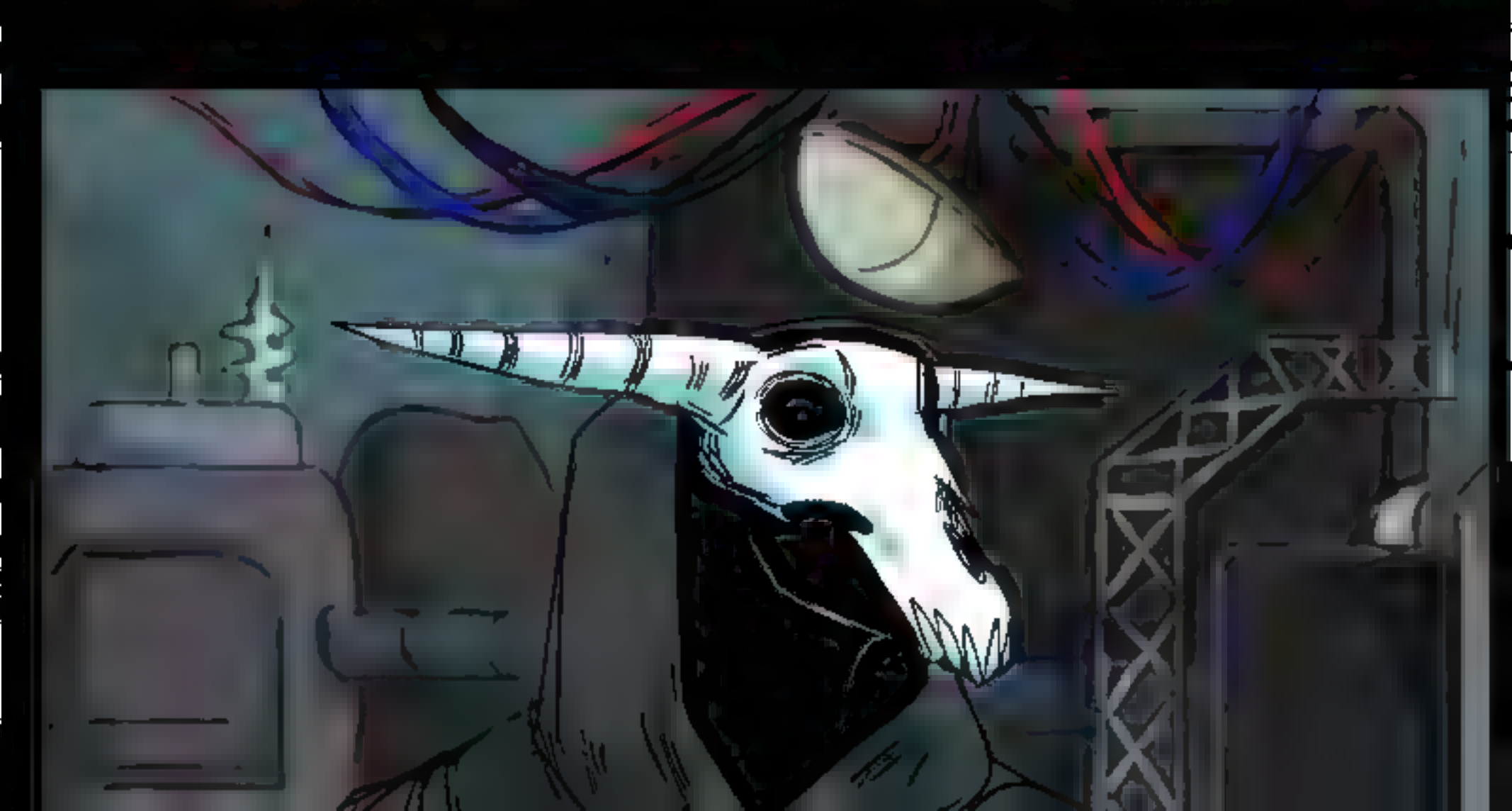
DID NOT MEAN TO FALL ASLEEP!
AMIGO, YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED! LET ME CARRY THIS SO

YOU CAN TAKE A REST

CAN'T...!
HAVE TO...
FINISH!

YOUR TIME IS UP.

YOU'VE MADE GOOD PROGRESS...

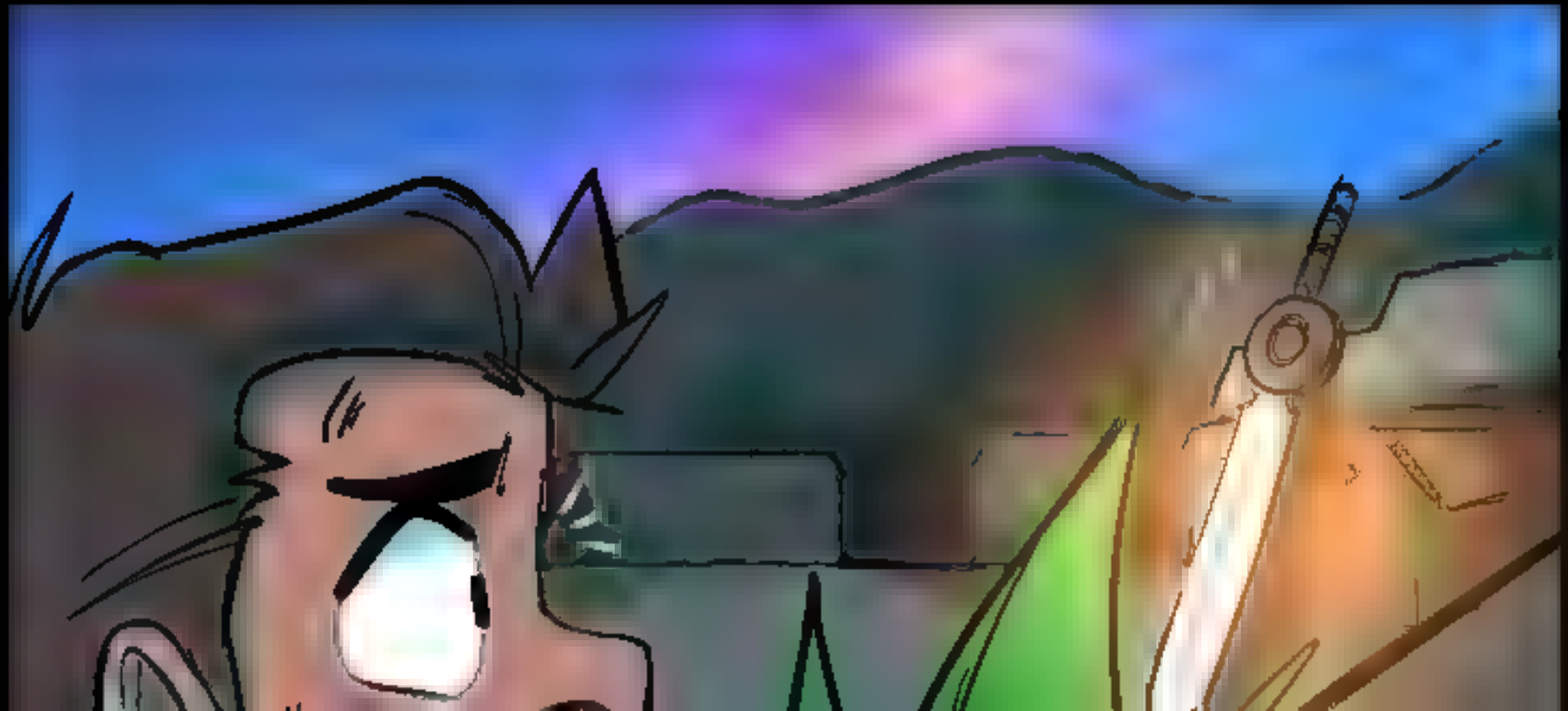


...BUT
IT IS STILL
INCOMLETE.

PLEASE...
A PROJECT LIKE THIS, WITH LIMITED SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT... IT'LL TAKE ATLEAST A YEAR! WE NEED MORE TIME!

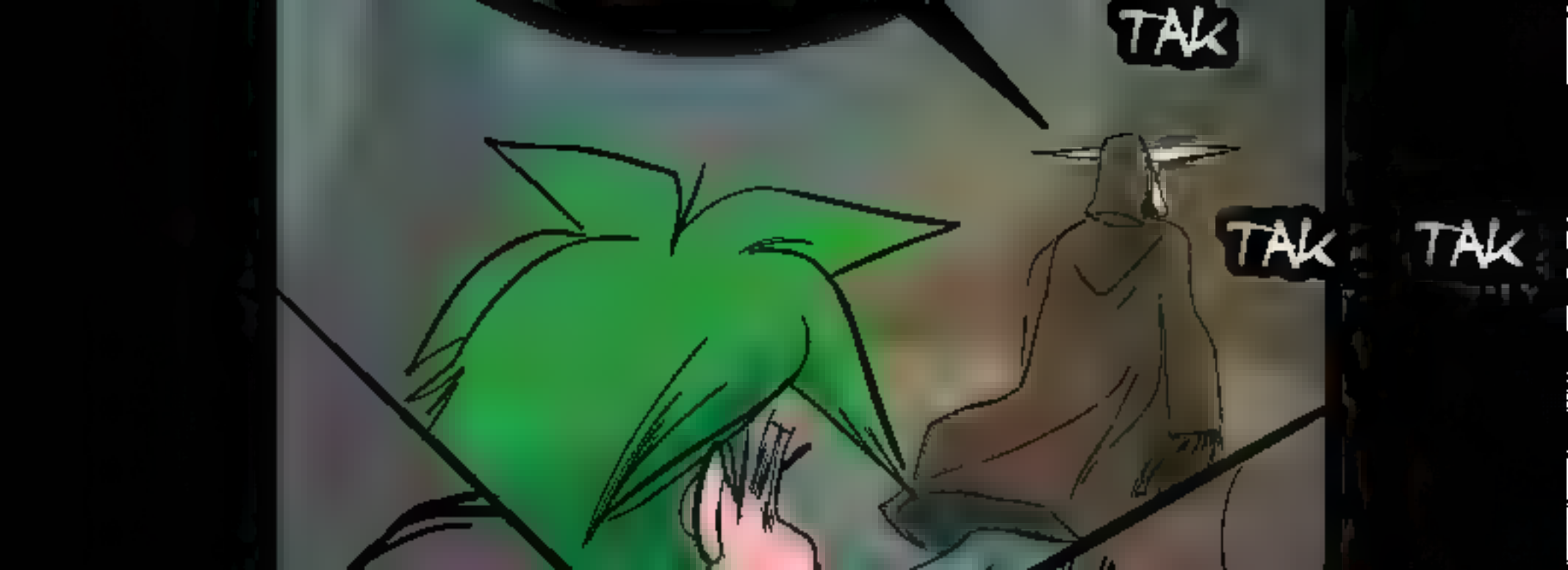
TIME IS NOT FREE. IT MUST BE PAID FOR.

WITH THE ONE SWORD IN YOUR POSSESSION, ONE MUST DIE; AND YOU SHALL HAVE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED.



WH-
WHAT?!

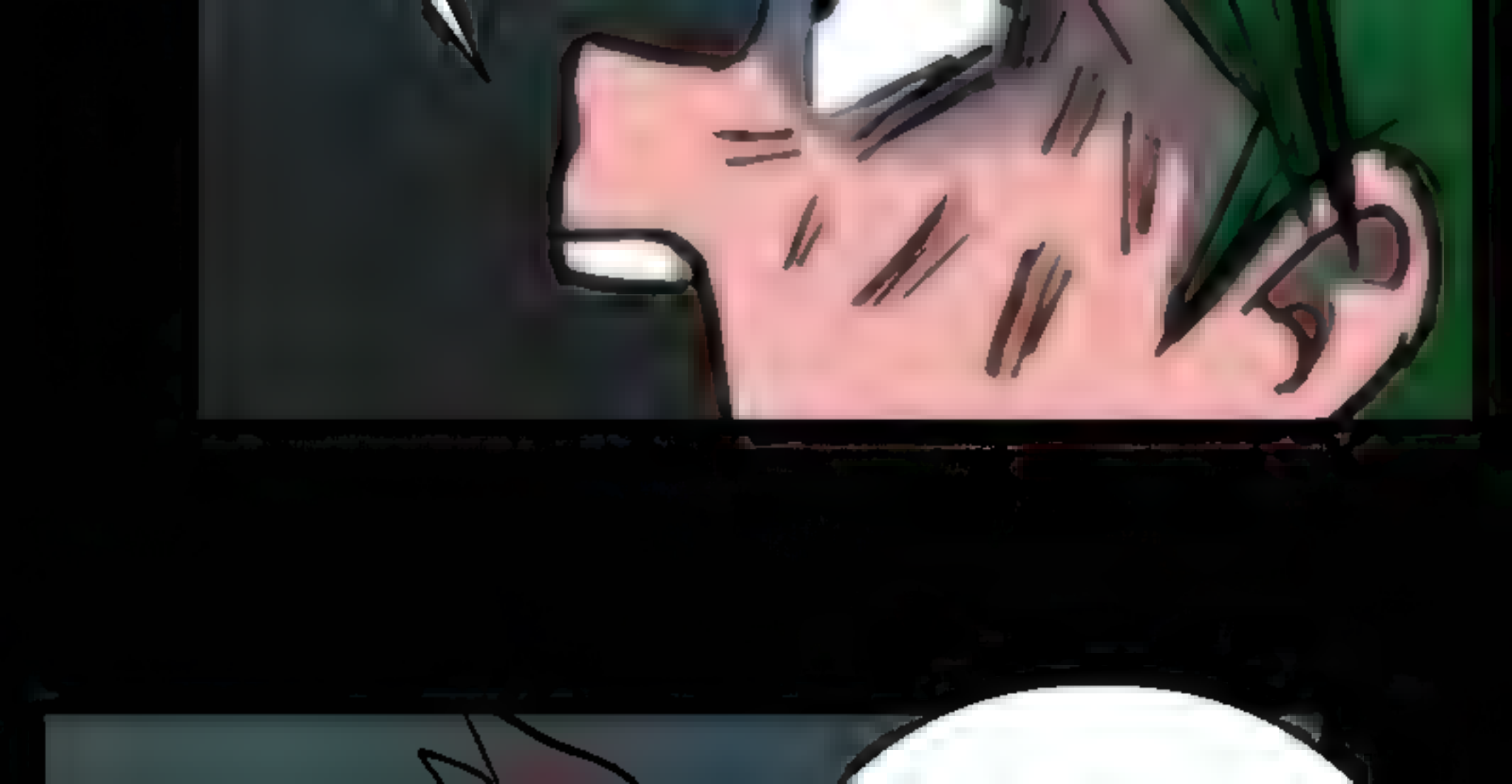
YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE YOUR CHOICE BEFORE THE TIMER RUNS OUT.


TAK
TAK
TAK

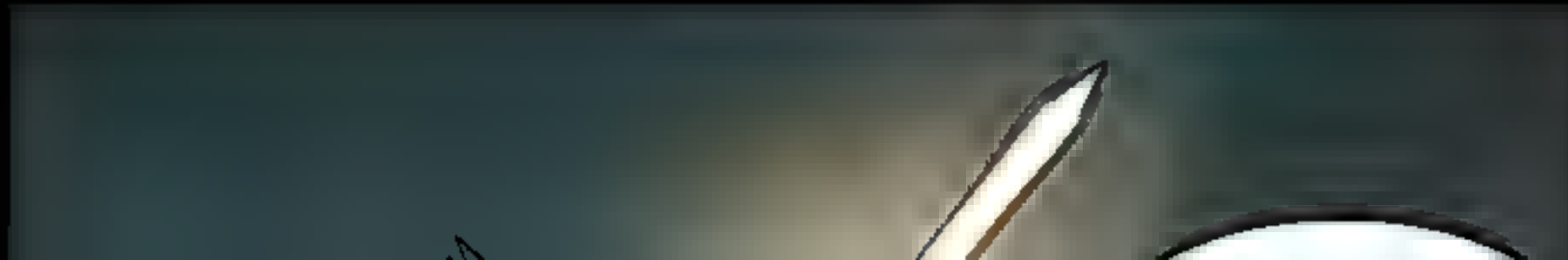
WAIT!
COME BACK!

DO THEY REALLY THINK WE'RE JUST GOING TO...

DON!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?



I'M SORRY, AMIGO... BUT I HAVE A FAMILY... CHILDREN



BUT YOU JUST SAID YOU COULDN'T BUILD THIS WITHOUT ME!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO MANAGE.

BUT MOST OF THE WORK IS MINE! I LET YOU REST ALL THAT TIME!

NGGH!
IT'S YOUR
FAULT I'M TOO
WEAK TO DEFEND
MYSELF NOW!

I'LL MAKE THIS AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE.

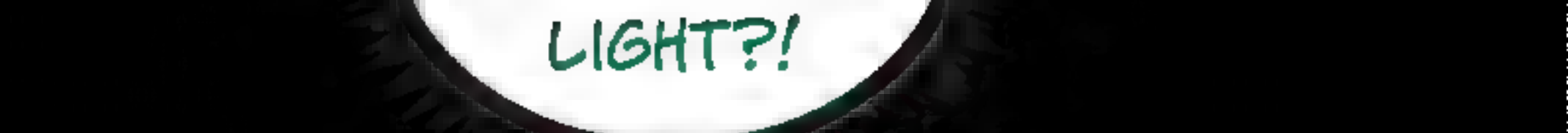
NO!!!

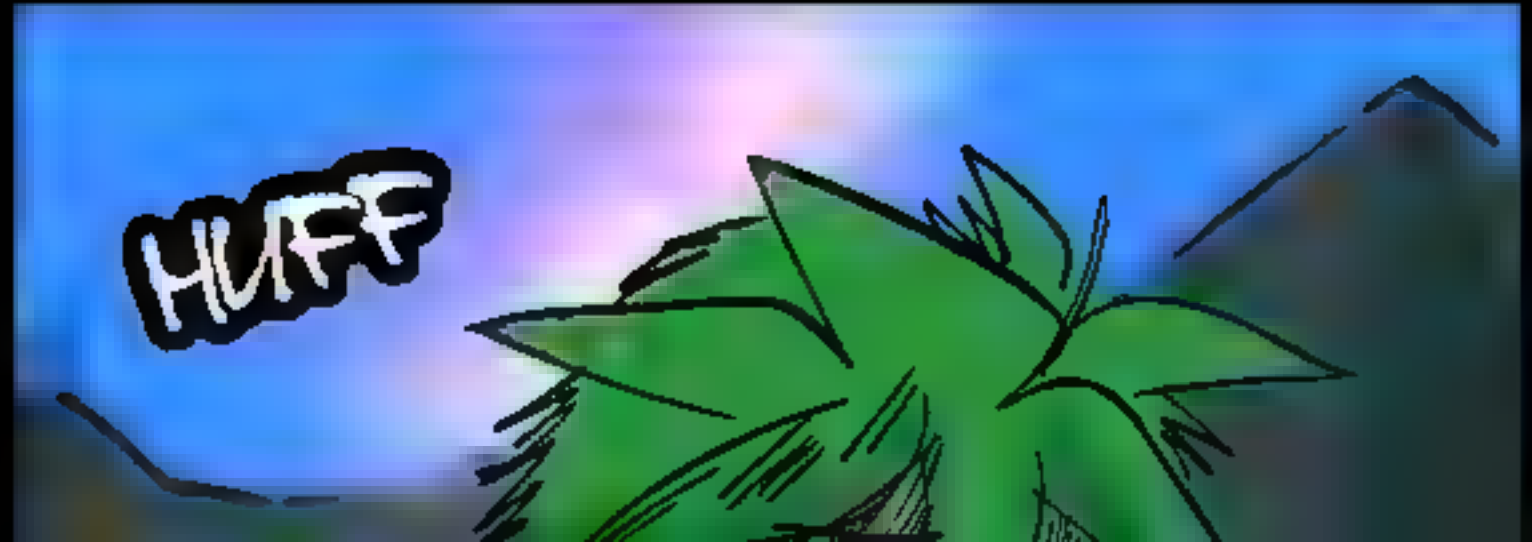
FWOOSH

022
022
HUFF
HUFF
tremble

I GOT OUT!

WHAT WAS THAT GREEN

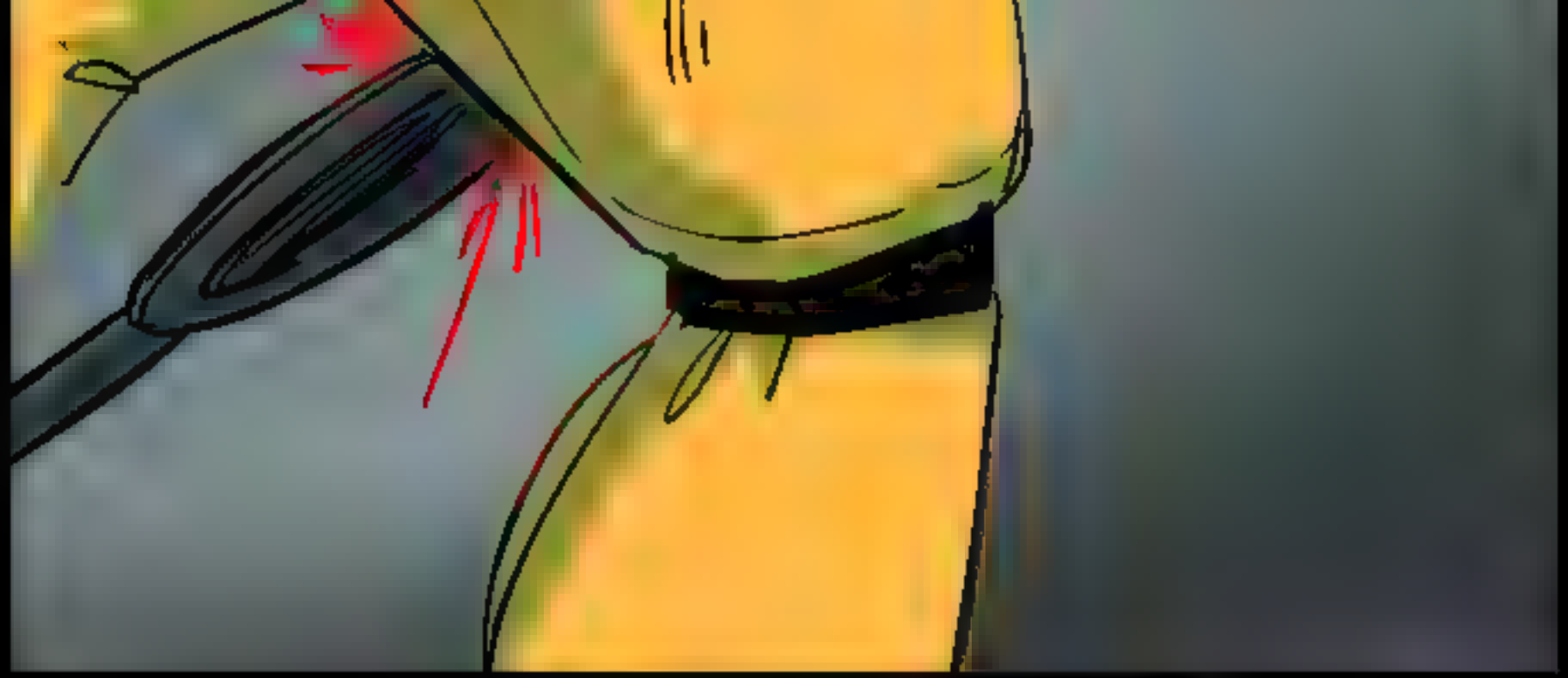

LIGHT?!


HUFF

HUFF

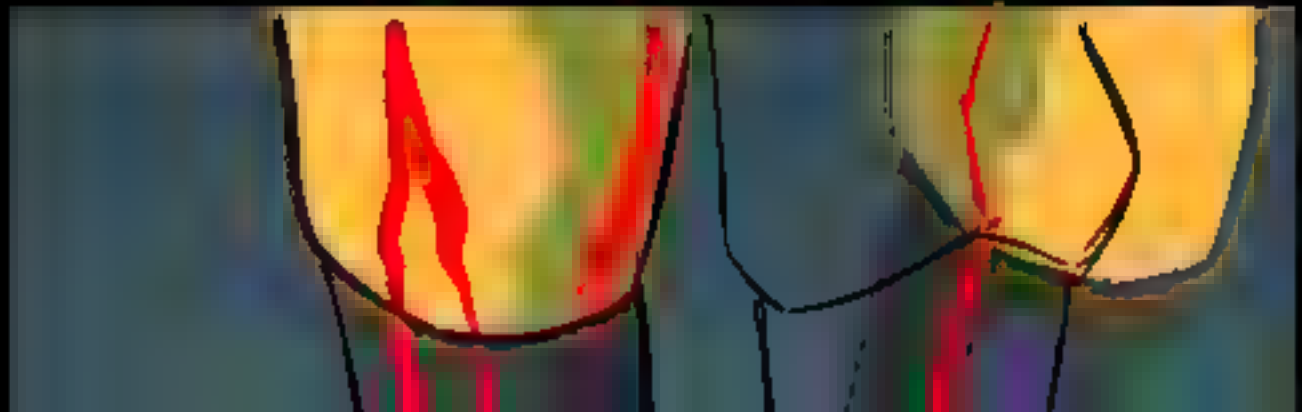
MY LEGS ARE SHAKING... I HAVE TO RUN!
TAK

TAK
TAK

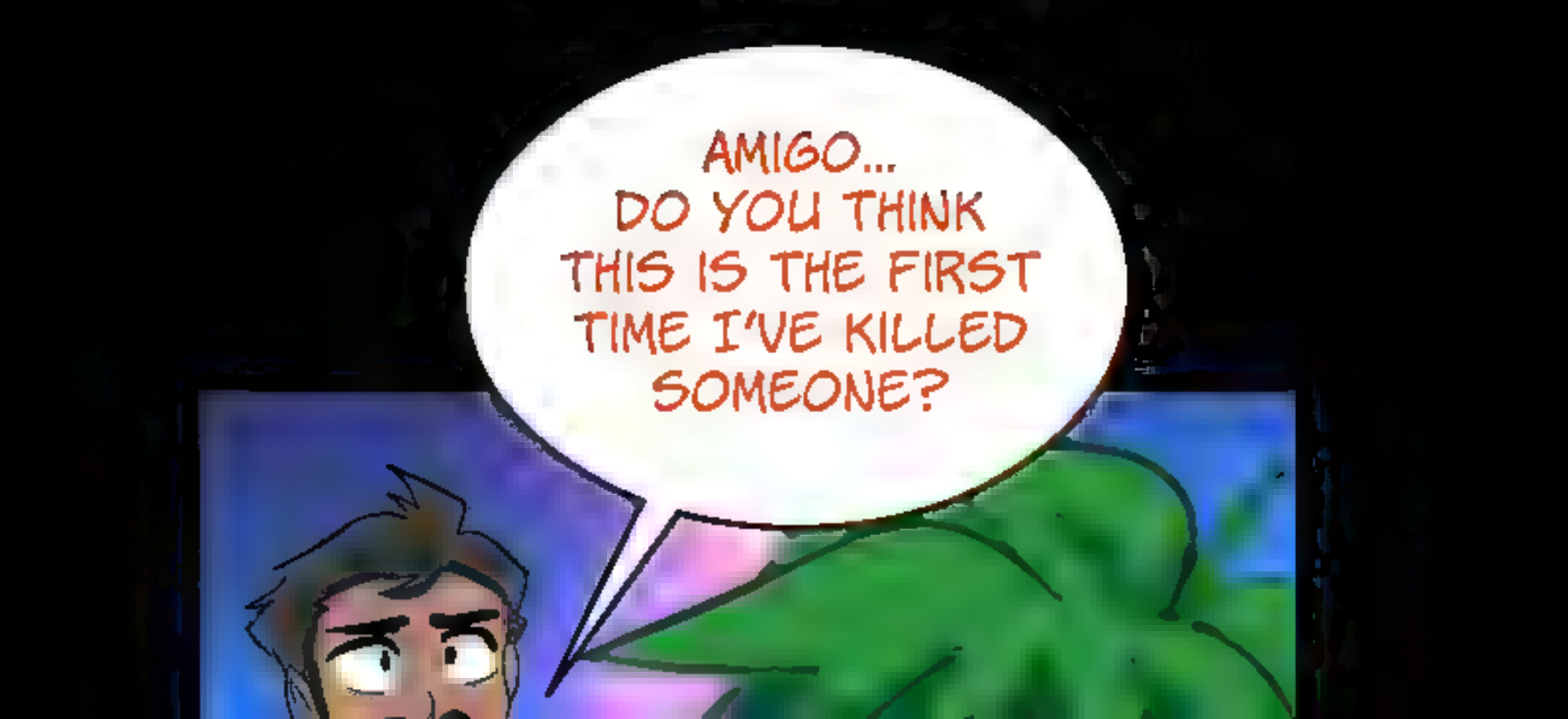


stumble

I WONDER...



DRIP
DRIP
IF YOUR SON WOULD WANT TO HUG YOU NOW...


AMIGO...
DO YOU THINK
THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME I'VE KILLED
SOMEONE?

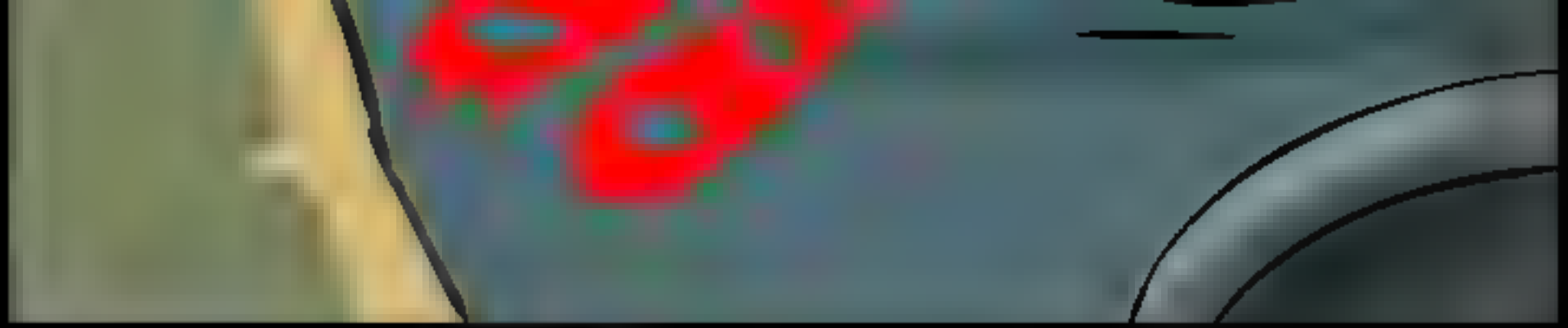
SO
THAT'S
WHY...

YOU ACT LIKE SUCH A NICE GUY... NGH!

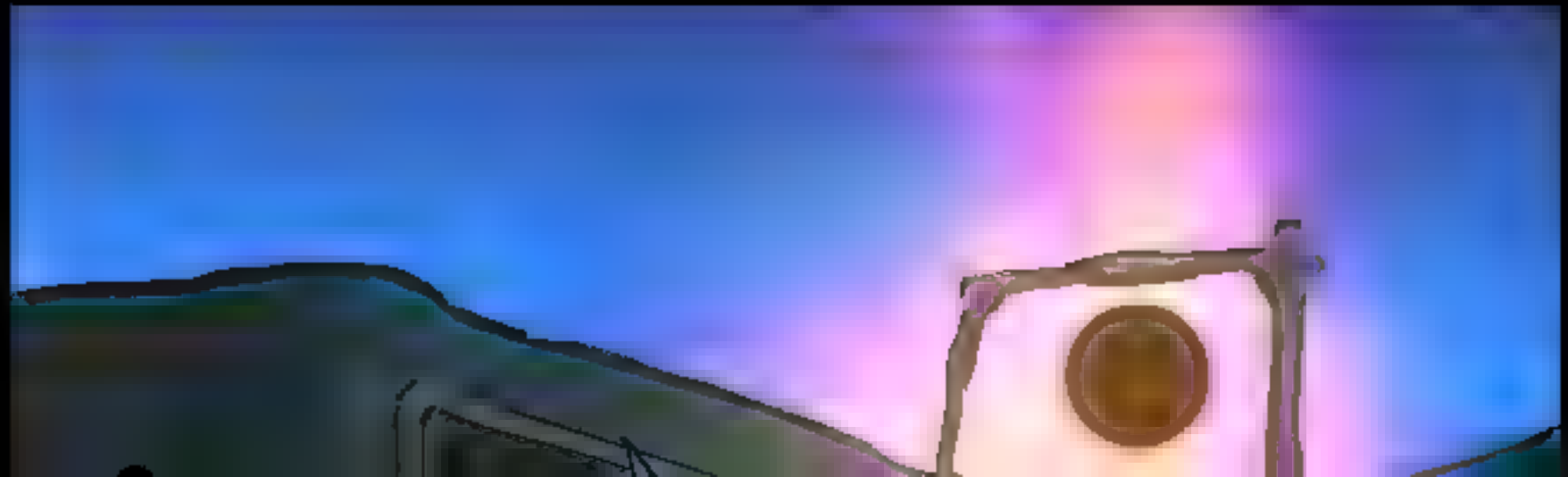
THUMP
...BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT.

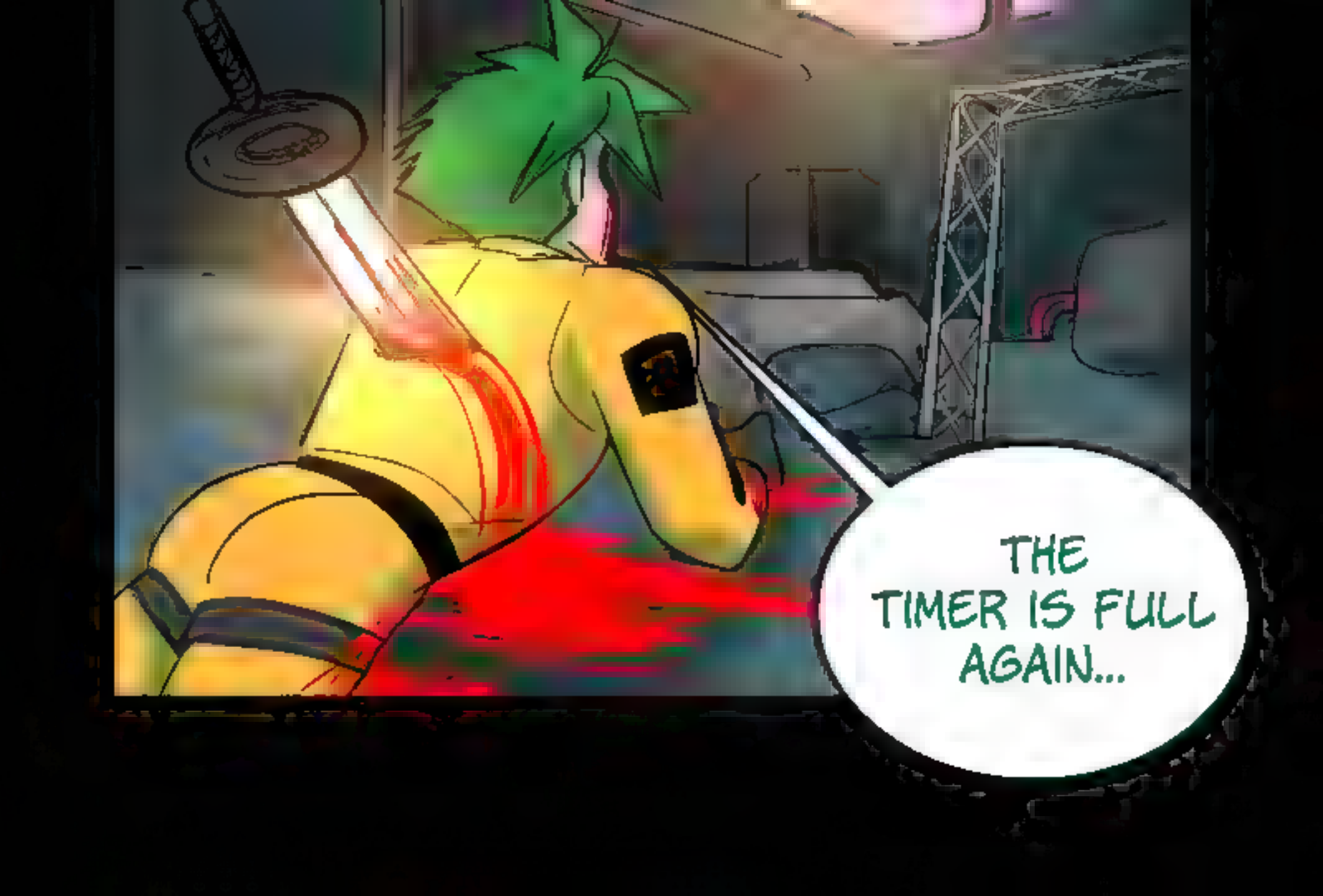
BA DUM...
BA DUM...

BA DUM...



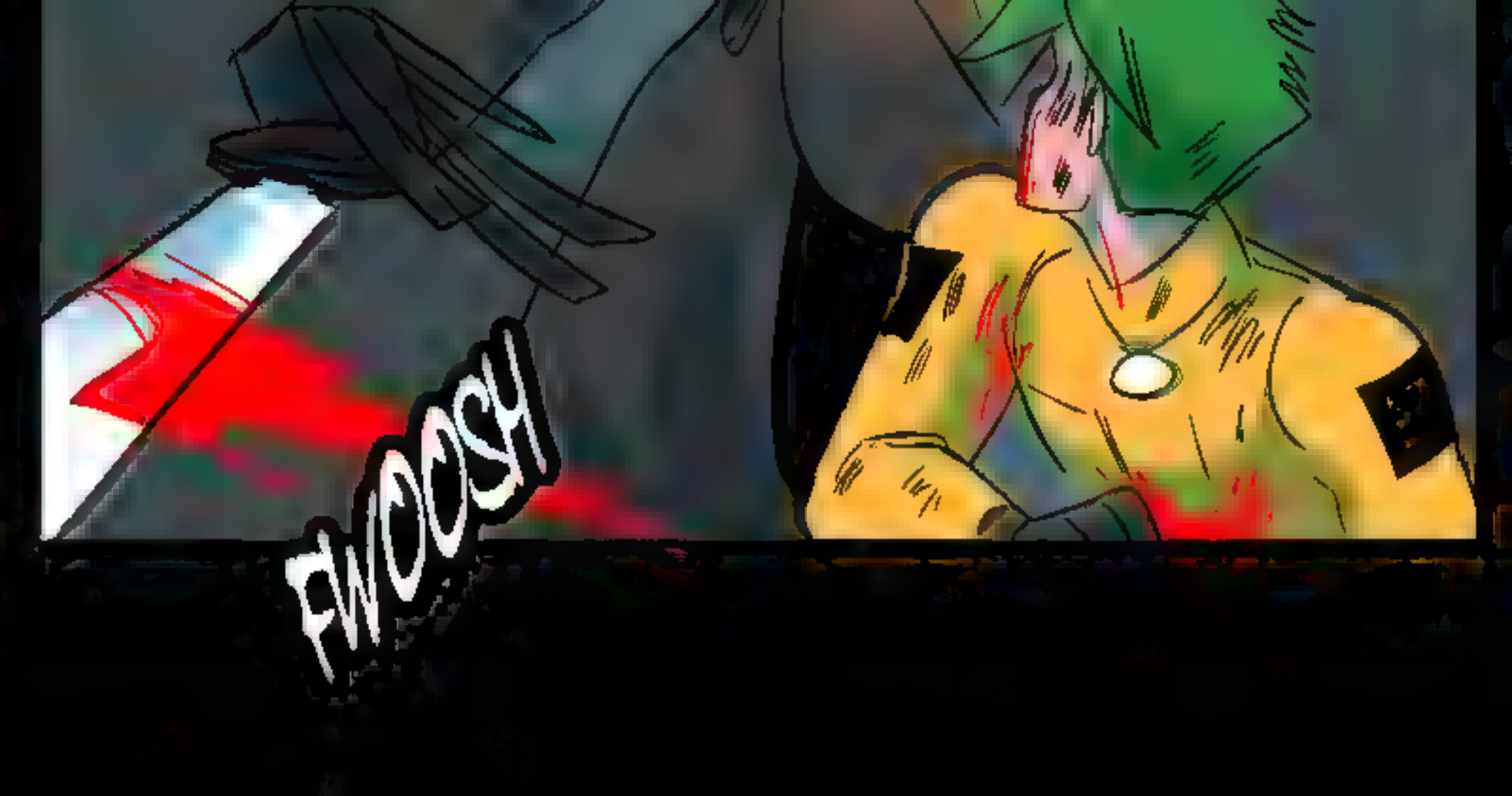
BA DUM



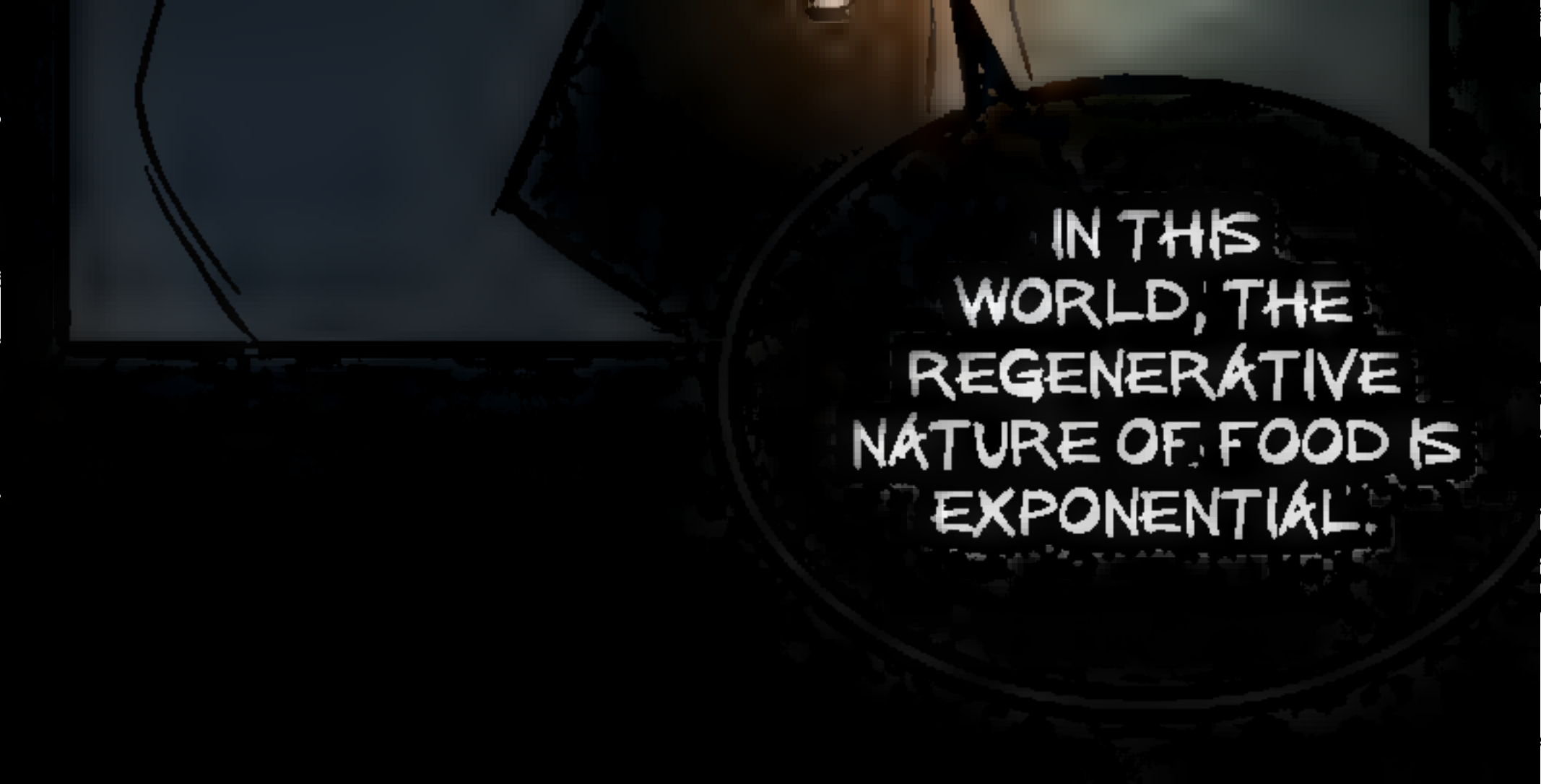

THE
TIMER IS FULL
AGAIN...

RIP

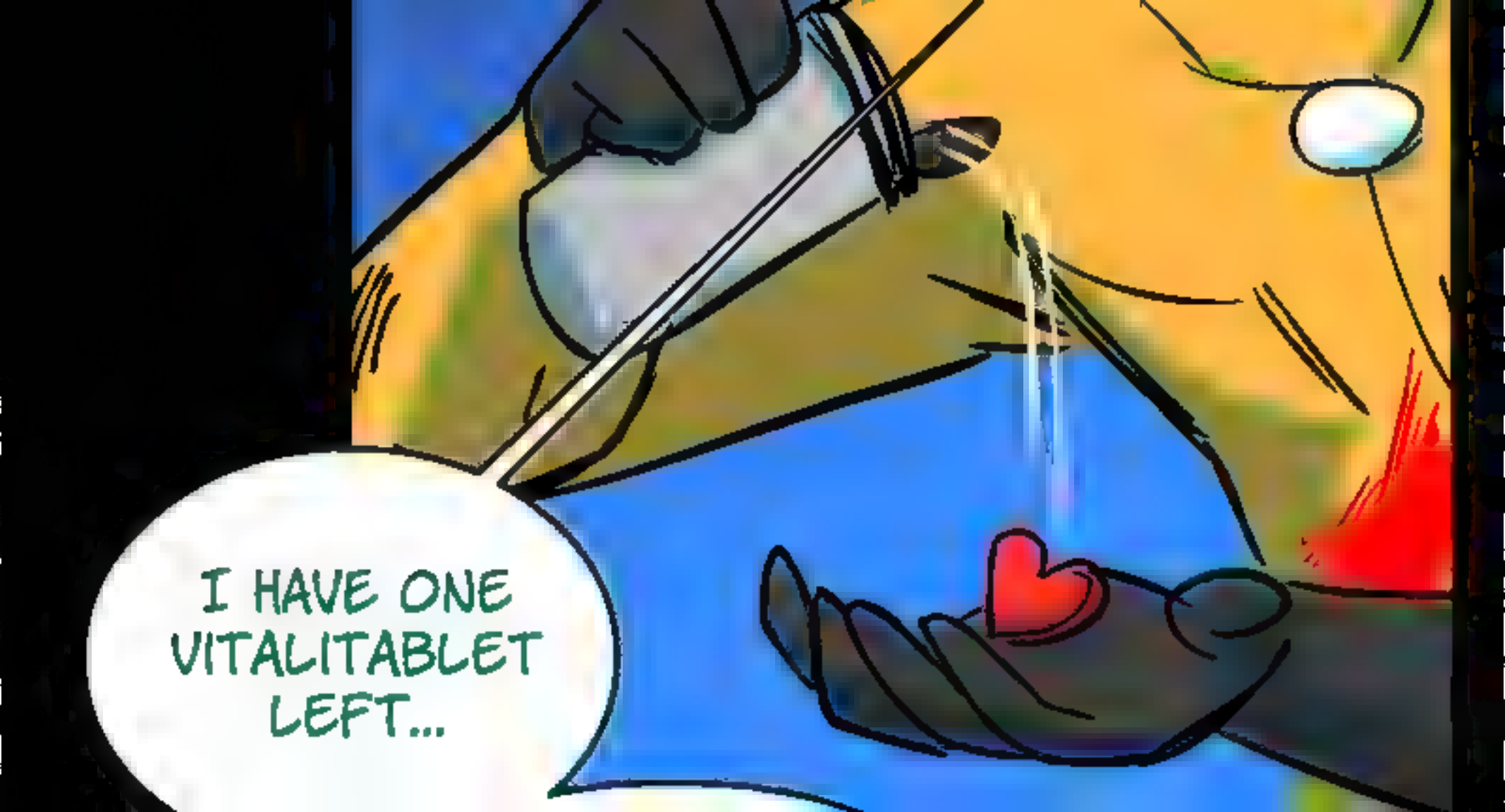
YOUR TIME HAS BEEN RENEWED. YOU HAVE 48 MORE HOURS TO COMPLETE YOUR TASK.


FWOOSH

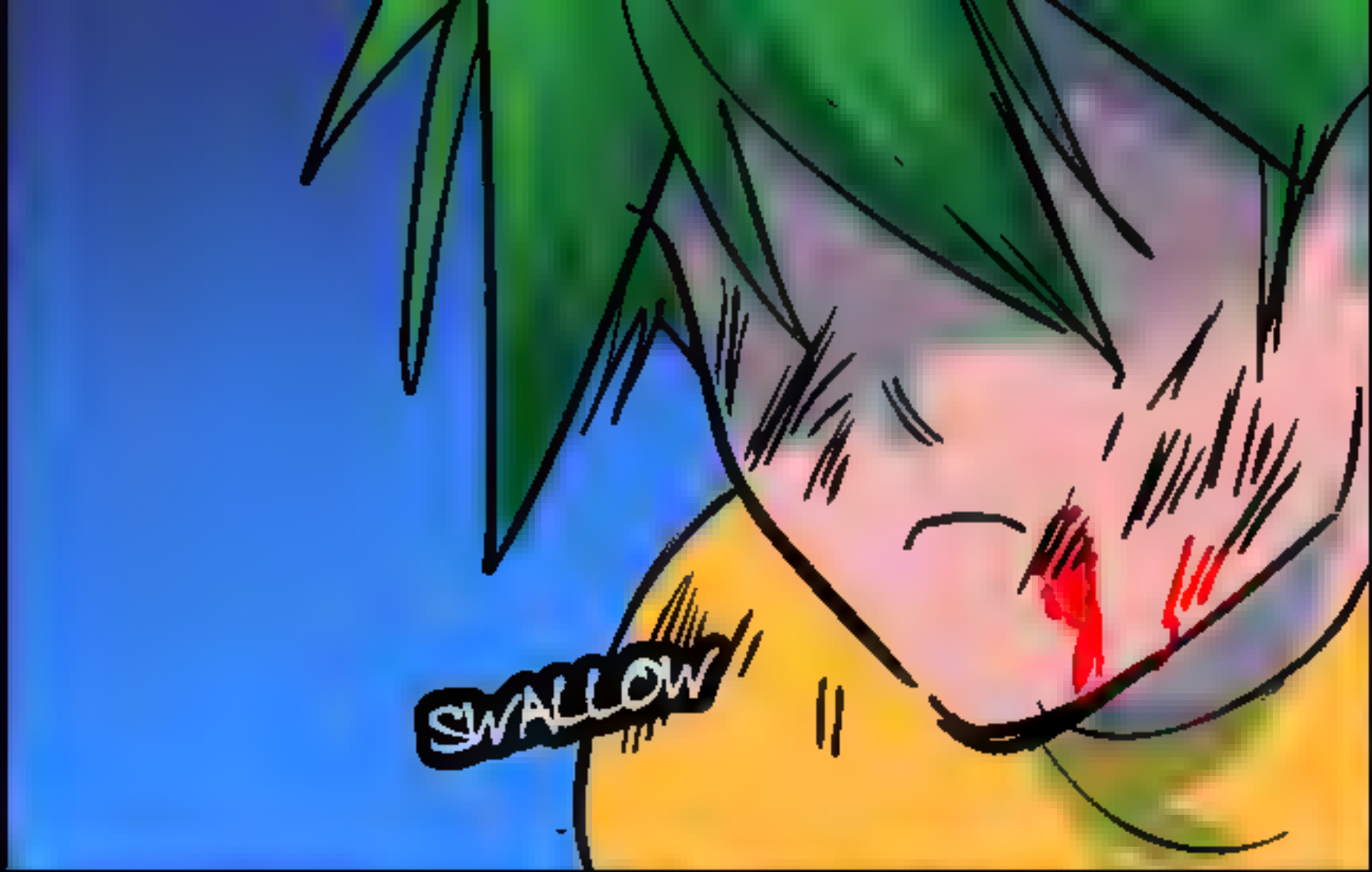
ARE YOU CRAZY!? I'VE GOT SECONDS BEFORE I DIE FROM BLOOD LOSS!


IN THIS WORLD, THE REGENERATIVE NATURE OF FOOD IS EXPONENTIAL.

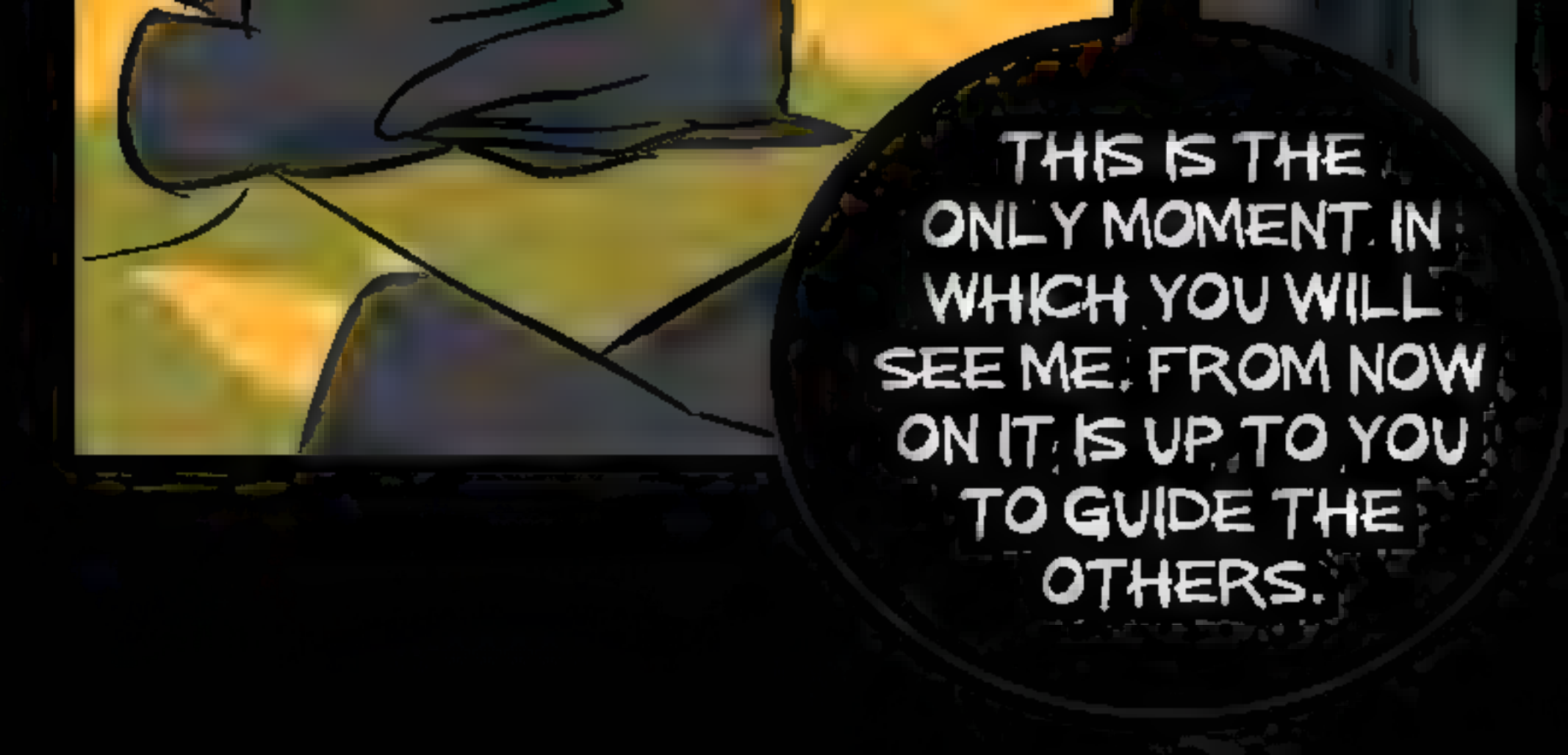
FOOD?


I HAVE ONE VITALITABLET LEFT...

VITALITABLETS ARE REGENERATIVE, BUT WOUNDS LIKE THIS STILL TAKE HOURS TO HEAL... I'LL BE DEAD BY THEN.


SWALLOW

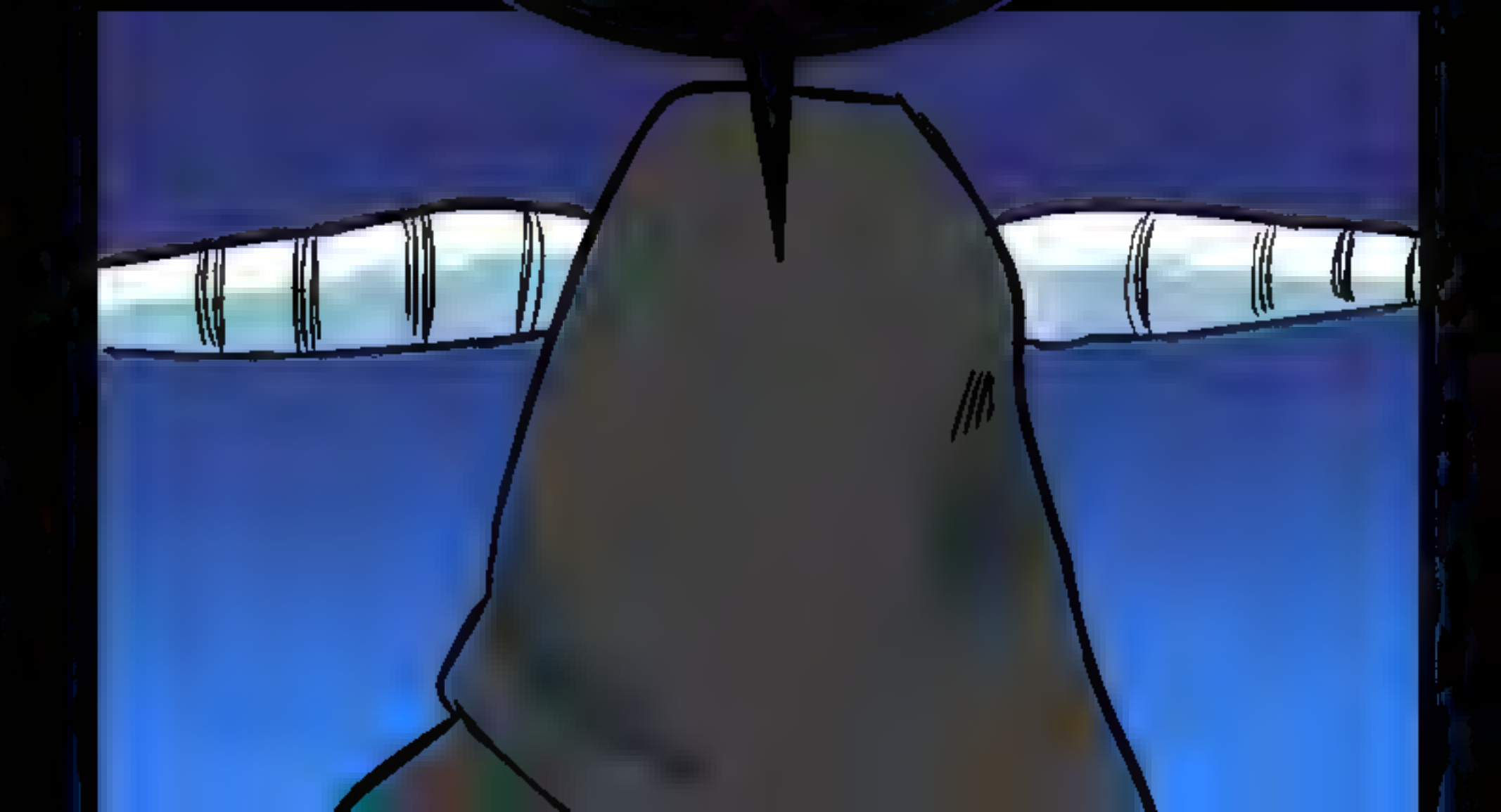
IT WORKED! LIKE THE EFFECTS ARE SPED UP!


THIS IS THE ONLY MOMENT IN WHICH YOU WILL SEE ME. FROM NOW ON IT IS UP TO YOU TO GUIDE THE OTHERS.

WAIT! YOU SAID ONE OF US HAD TO DIE!

WHY AM I STILL HERE? WHAT HAPPENED TO DON?

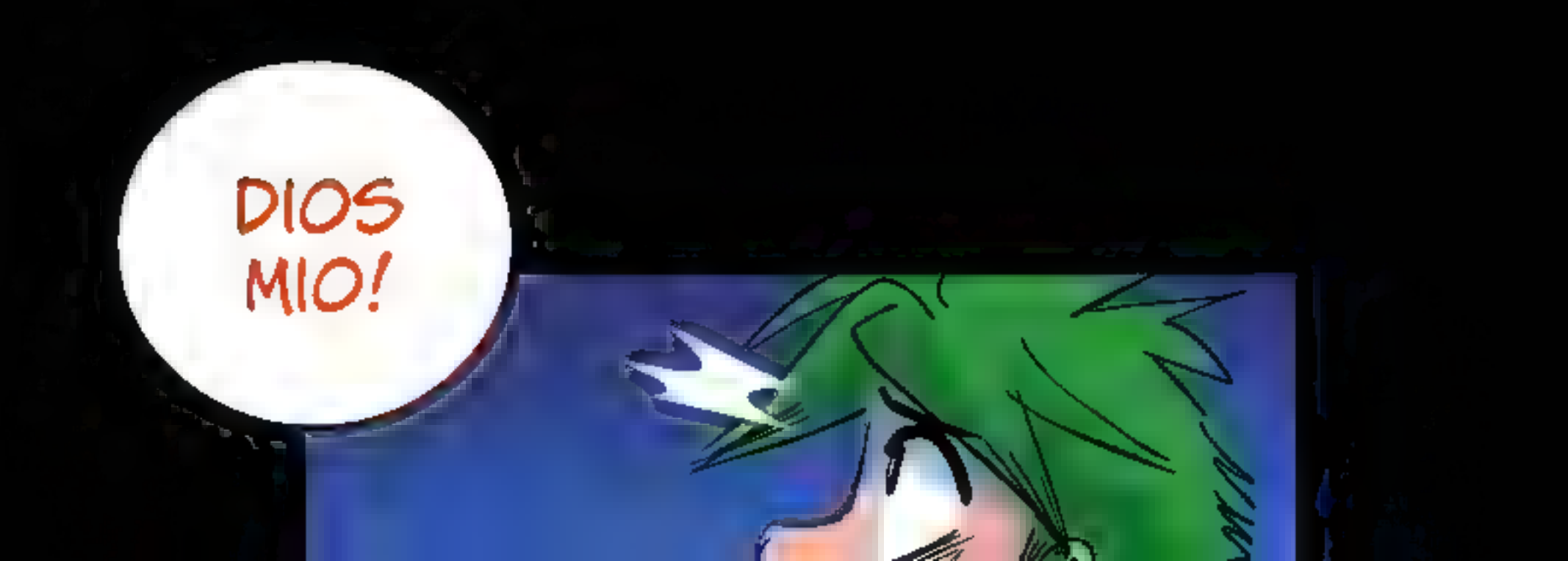
SOME OF YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE. BUT IF YOU ARE AFRAID TO DIE, YOU WILL FAIL.

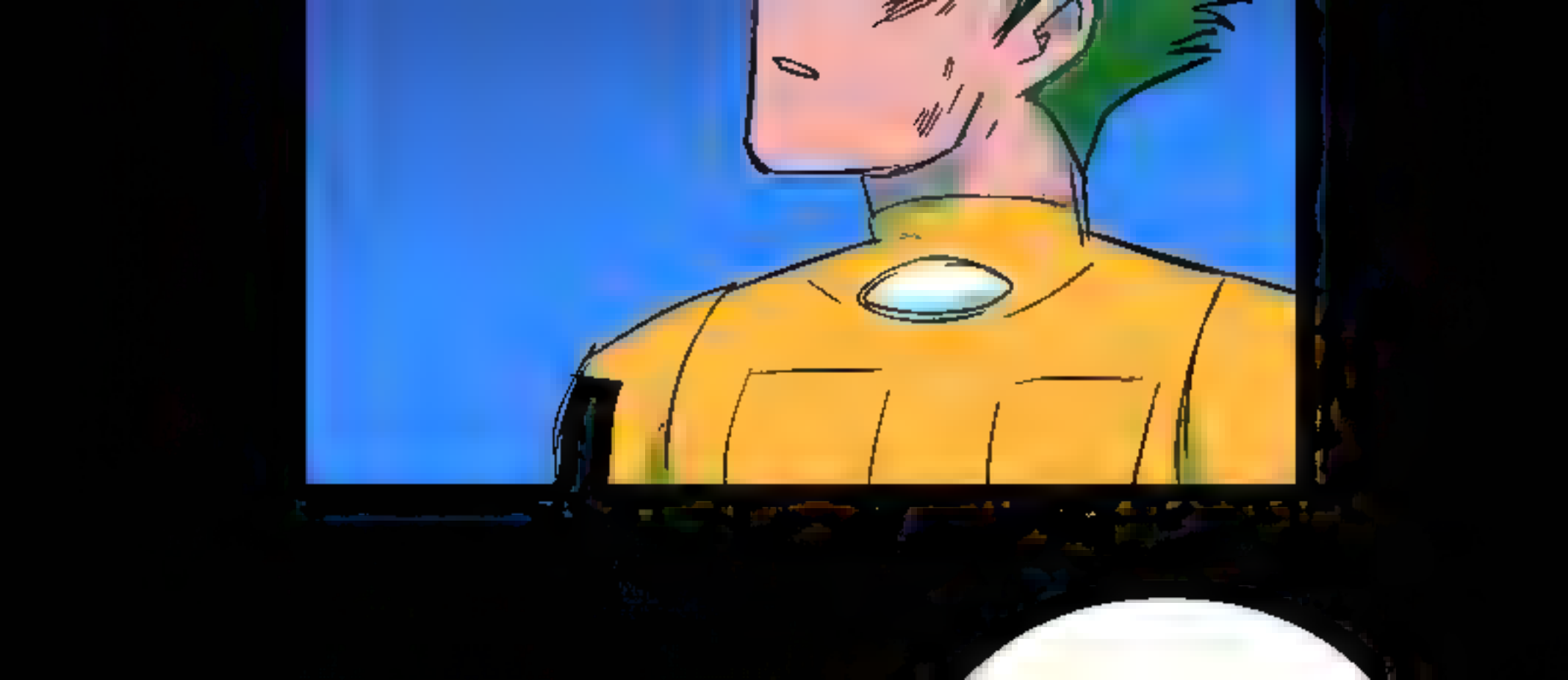


DO
NOT KEEP ME
WAITING.

...I'LL FAIL IF I'M AFRAID TO DIE?

COULD IT BE?

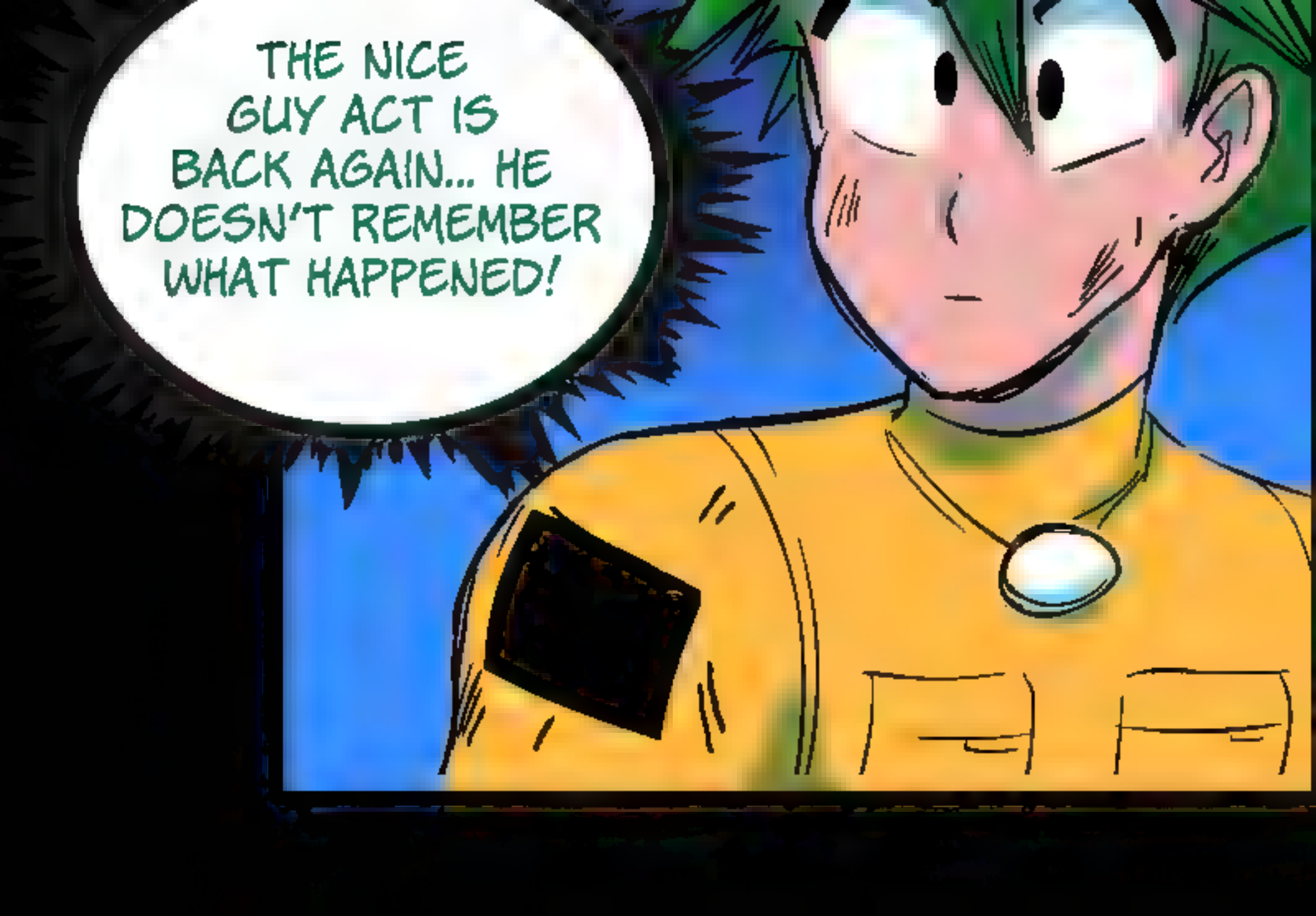

DIOS MIO!

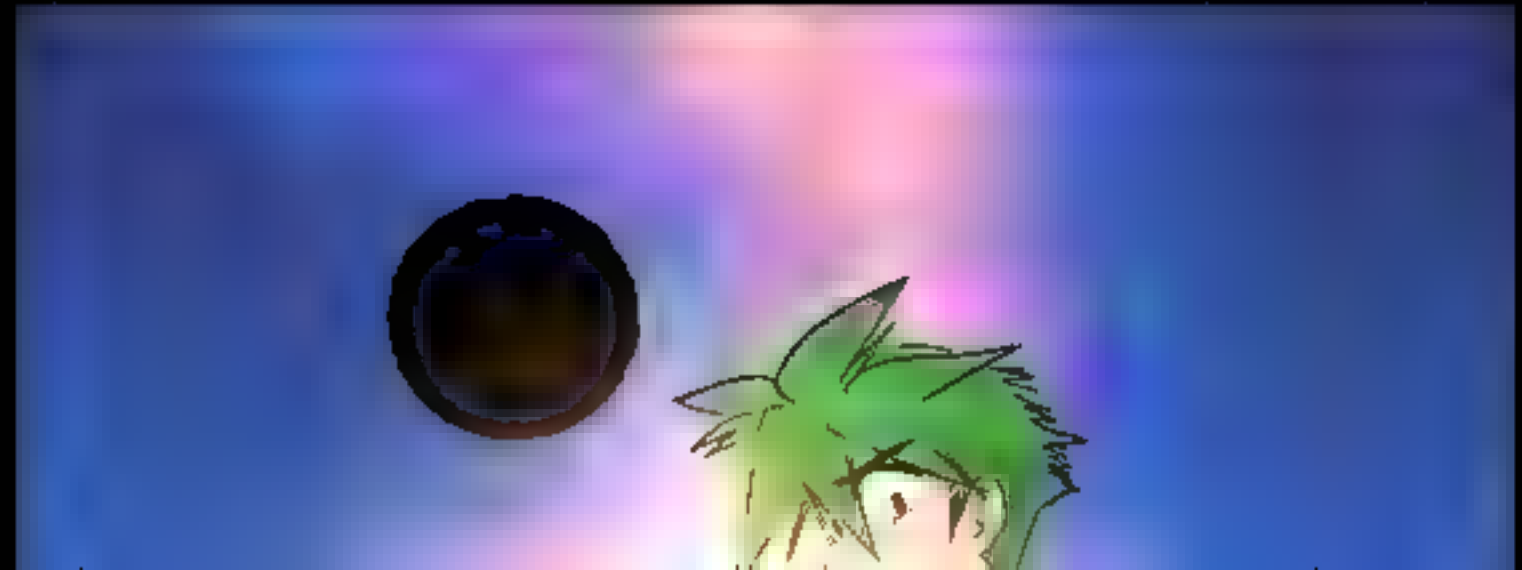


THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE HERE!

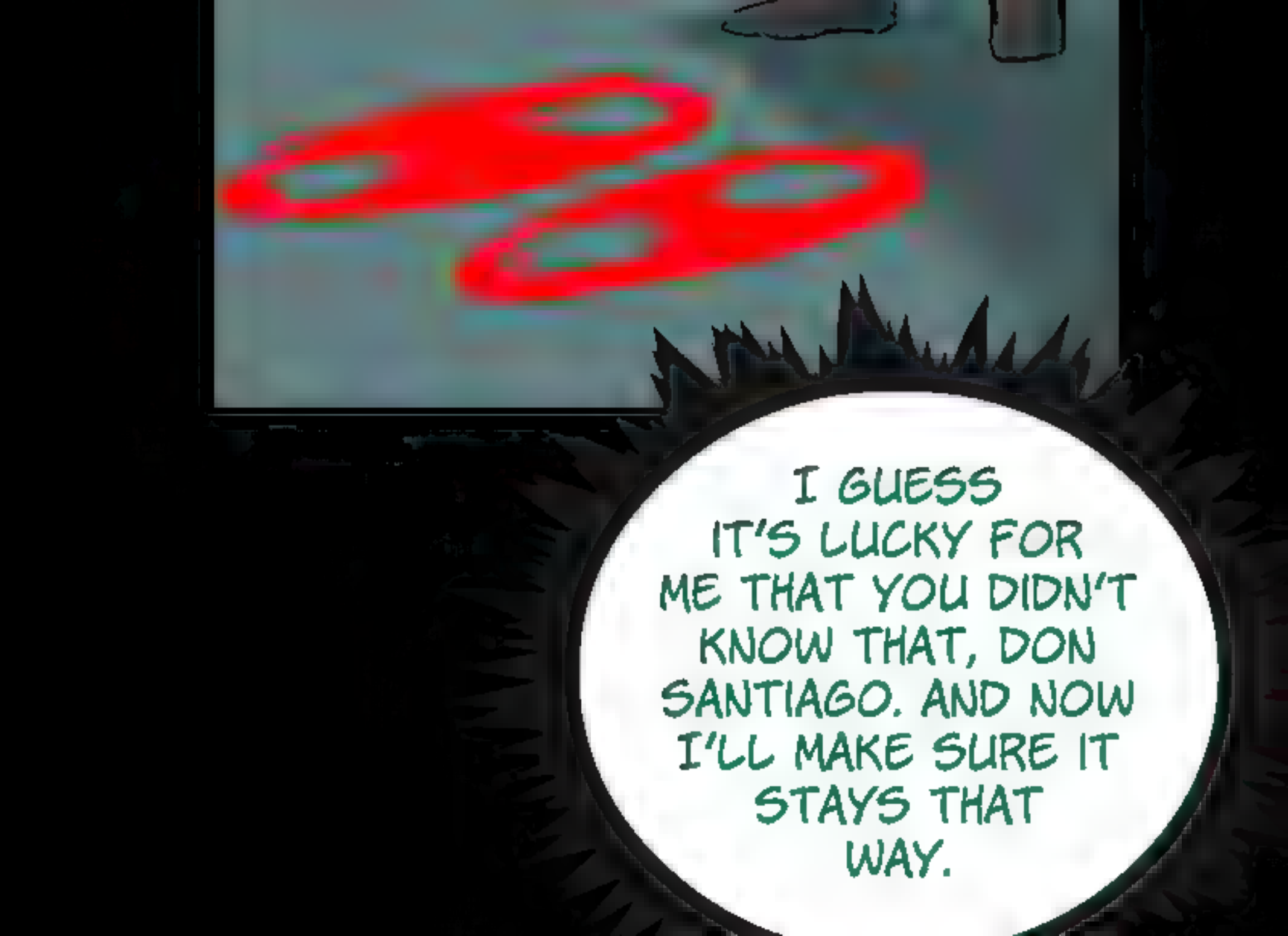
OYE!

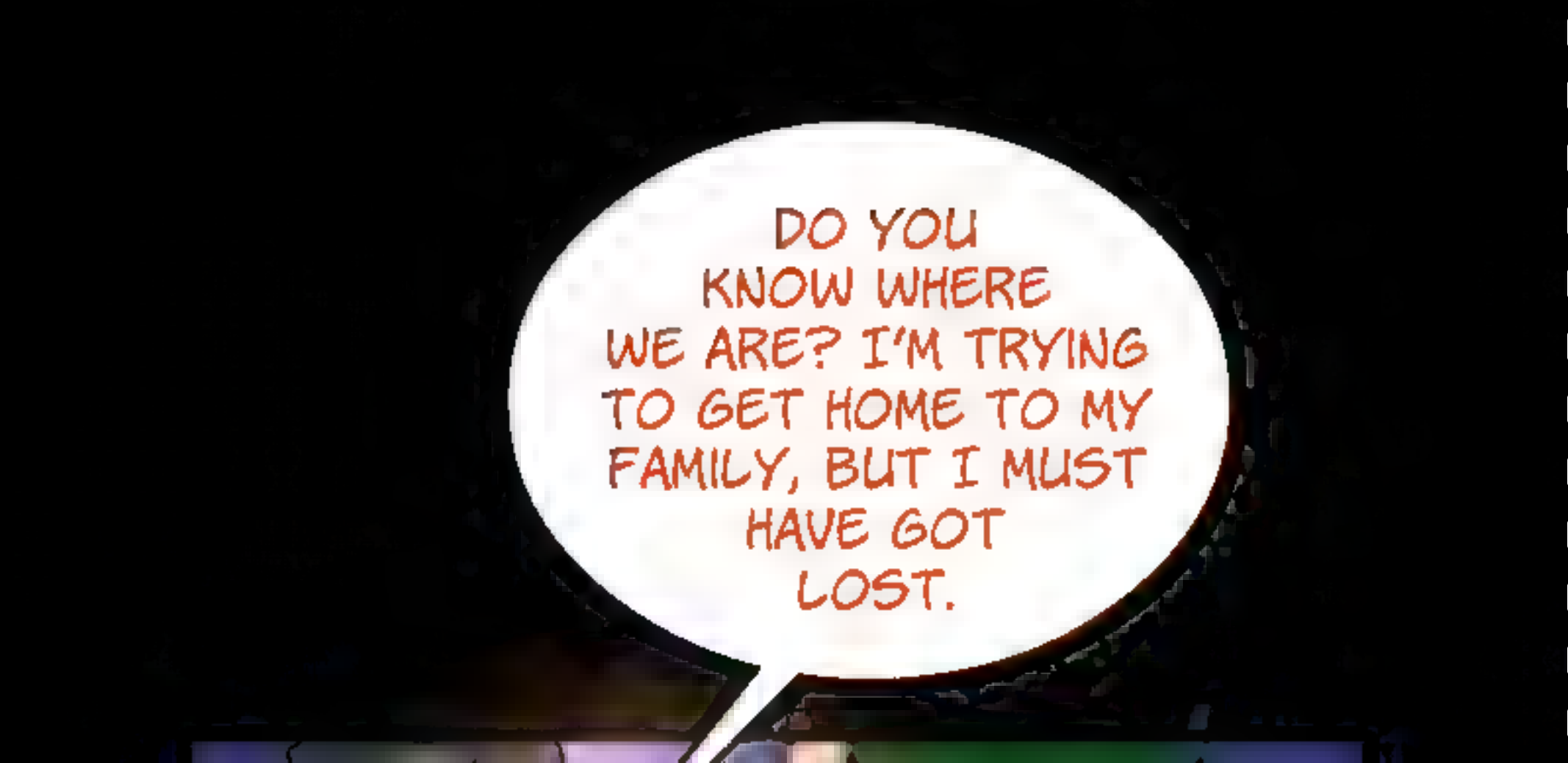
WITH THE SWORD, "ONE MUST DIE AND YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED"...


THE NICE GUY ACT IS BACK AGAIN... HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED!

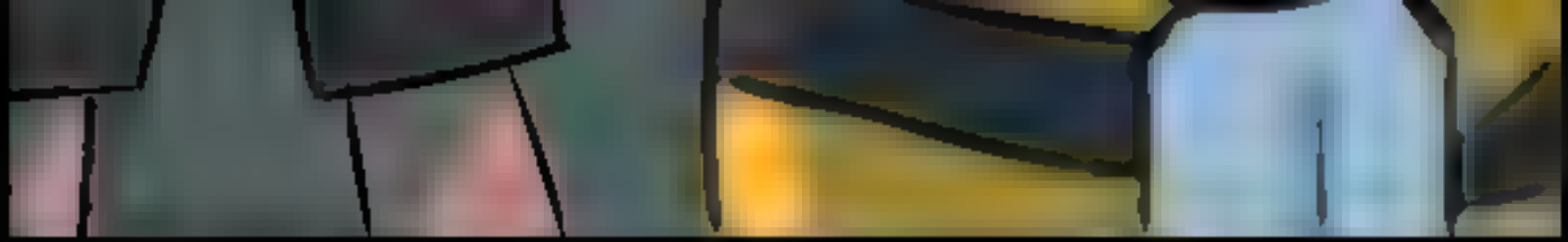


SO TIME STARTS OVER... EXCEPT FOR THE ONE WHO USED THE SWORD.

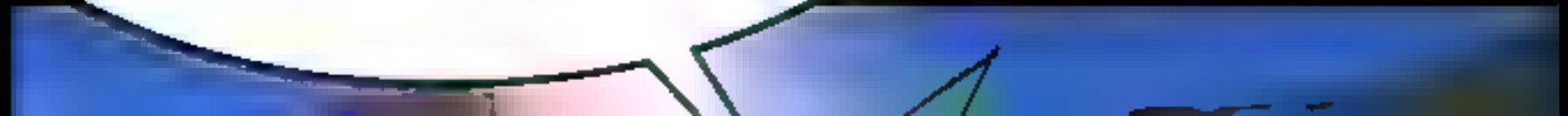

I GUESS IT'S LUCKY FOR ME THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, DON SANTIAGO. AND NOW I'LL MAKE SURE IT STAYS THAT WAY.


DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE? I'M TRYING TO GET HOME TO MY FAMILY, BUT I MUST HAVE GOT LOST.

YEAH, I KNOW HOW WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE... BUT I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP. JUST FOR THE NEXT 48 HOURS.



SO THAT'S HOW THIS ALL STARTED... THEY WERE MASIOSARE'S INSTRUCTIONS... THE ONE EVERYONE MADE A CONTRACT WITH EXCEPT ME...



WHY DO

WHY. DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
TAK
TAK

THE
END MEETS
THE BEGINNING
AGAIN.

THIS
TIME IT IS

YOU WHO STANDS
ON THAT SIDE OF
THE GLASS.

AND I
ON THE
OTHER

AND
THROUGH THE
MIRROR WE
SEE...

A VERY STRANGE ENEMY INDEED.

ROOM of
SWORDS

UPDATES EVERY MONDAY

COLOR ASSISTANT:
@ONEBAROFSOAP
@AUREMINATE

PLEASE LEAVE US
A LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!:

@ROOMOFSWORDS

PATREON.COM/TOONIMATED